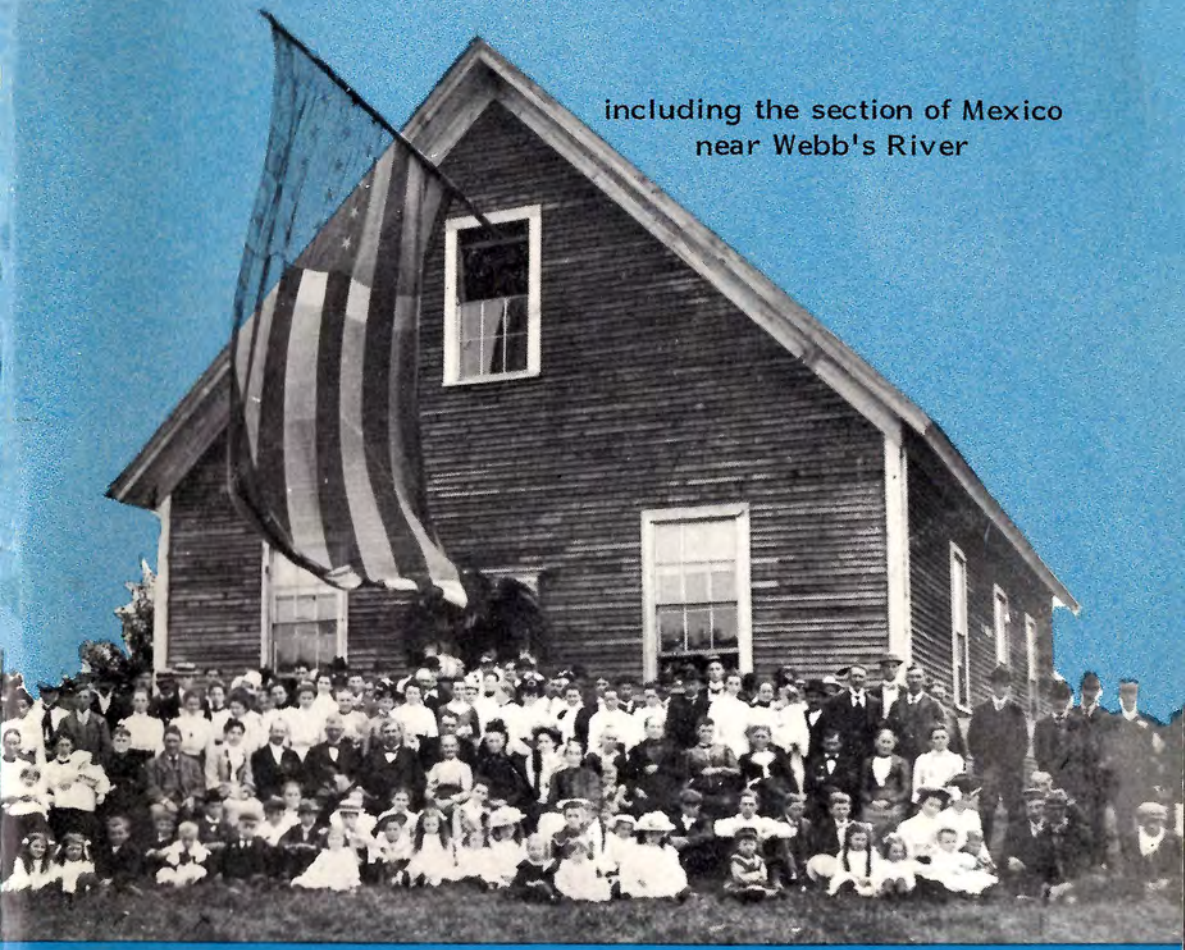
The Early History of

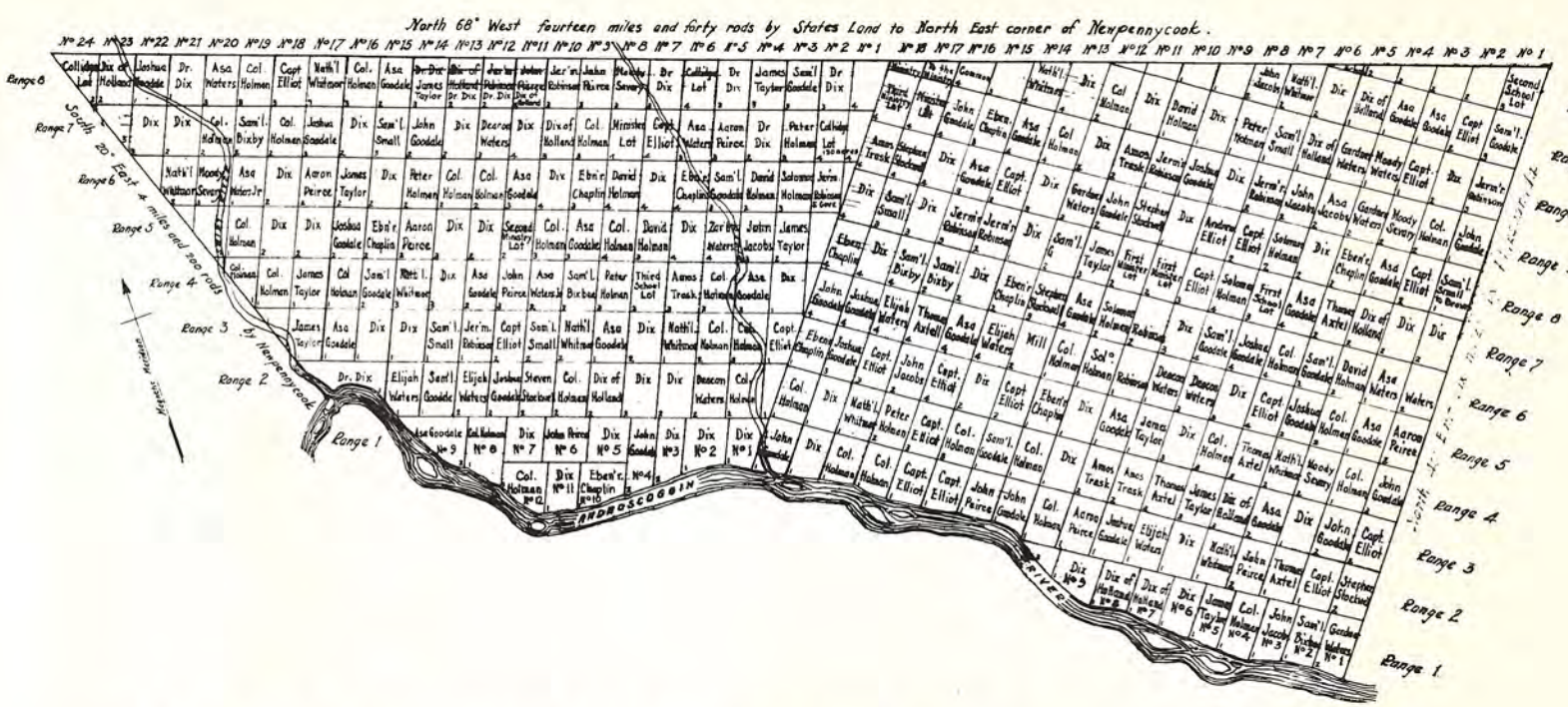
DIXFIELD

MAINE

including the section of Mexico
near Webb's River



PUBLISHED FOR THE DIXFIELD BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1976



A true copy of an old plan of Dixfield and Mexico bearing the following certificate: "A plan of Township No. 1, belonging to Col. Jonathan Holman & Co., lying on the North side of the Androscoggin River, drawn from a plan (taken by Samuel Titcomb, Sept. 1789, protracted by a scale of 200 rods per inch) by Daniel Tenney, Sutton Feb. 17, 1820. Said Township contains thirty thousand and twenty acres.

Reunion of the Holman family, August 1909, held in the Peter Holman place, Dixfield Center. This was the first frame house in Dixfield, built about 1804. The first town meetings were held upstairs in this house, which had four fireplaces. The town meetings were moved to the first brick school when it was completed in 1812.

Courtesy of Althea Fish

Cover photo, courtesy Mrs. Lelia Holman Walton

The Dixfield Center Town Hall with members of the first Holman Reunion posed in front, about 1901. This building was the first Town Hall built specifically for that purpose, in 1860. Town meetings were held here for half a century.

MARCH 5, 1861

"This day completes 58 years since I first came to Dixfield. It looked to me like a howling wilderness! Our nighest nabor was a mile on one side and two miles on the other. We had no schools. I keep the first school that was ever keep in what is now Dixfield village. We had no doctor short of 18 miles, we were occasionally favoured with a good missionary come to preach with us on the Sabbath. My husband and myself would take our babe and start in the morning and walk five miles to attend meeting and return at night." ---Copied from a letter written by Mrs. Eliza Barnard Small, whose marriage to Samuel Small was one of the first in Dixfield.

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Published by
THE DIXFIELD BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
and
THE DIXFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1976

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FOREWORD

This history of our town has been prepared in the brief period from February in the Bicentennial Year 1976 to the publication date. In this booklet we present a running account of the earliest days of our town.

A more complete history of Dixfield is also underway. It will include in greater detail the professions and trades, organizations, notable citizens, military and political history. There will be excerpts from early diaries, the genealogies of the first families and interesting stories collected from over the years. The schools and churches, the census figures up to 1850, geographical information and other data combined with more photographs will also be features of this larger work.

Due to the efforts of civic-minded citizens of days past...Rachel Gates Kidder, Roy Hathaway, Henry Park...and our own Wirt Horne and others who have collected and preserved these early records, there is now available material for such a volume.

Because we are aware that collections of historical material made in earlier years have been completely lost-never to be entirely regained since the sources are gone--we are anxious to save what is now available by collecting it into a book. We welcome contributions by all who have items of possible interest for such a volume.

Contact any of the committee members to submit items for the book:

Mrs. Bernard Kidder — Lyman Holman
Mrs. Cleon Corrow — Mrs. James Kendall
Wirt Horne — John Tribou
Mrs. Malcolm Bryant (East Dixfield section)
John Baker (picture committee)

We will be including all of East Dixfield village and the area in Mexico which lies near Webb's River which is more closely connected by distance and activities with our Village than with Mexico.

THE DIXFIELD BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

THE EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH of the site of Dixfield where Webb's River enters the Androscoggin. Photo taken from the Eli Edmonds house (across the bridge) shows the area back of the Odd Fellows Hall, Dr. Elsemore's residence, etc. Courtesy of Wirt Horne

PURCHASE
BOUNDARIES
INCORPORATION

Dixfield...believed to be the only town in the United States bearing the name...was originally Holmantown. Before that the area which includes Dixfield and all of the present town of Mexico was designated Androscoggin Purchase No. 1.

In 1789 when the purchase was made the wilderness stretched almost unbroken to Canada. Although there were towns in the region, they were little more than settlements in the forest. The earliest incorporations were: Paris, 1793: Jay and Livermore, 1795: Bethel, 1796; Rumford, 1800. Dixfield's incorporation came in 1803 followed by Peru and Canton in 1821.

In records of the Androscoggin Purchase, Township No. 1, we learn that "Colonel Jonathan Holman, Deacon Asa Waters and Captain Andrew Elliott, all of Sutton, Mass,. spent a considerable amount of time in August and September of 1787 in looking out a township...bespoke of it to the Committee For The Sale Of Eastern Lands in 1787, but could not obtain a contract for the purchase of it until July 2, 1789, when Col. Holman went to Boston and contracted for it, and paid earnest toward it, for himself and others, whose names appear below."

The price was 2895 pounds, 11 shillings and 5 pence for 30,020 acres which was then in the County of Cumberland, Massachusetts. This plus the expenses incurred amounting to 136 pounds, 12 shillings and 5 pence, was divided into 60 parts as was the land which was acquired. Rights were sold, with each subscriber paying his one-, two- or more 60ths of the cost. The Proprietors, all from Worcester County, Mass., were:

Jonathan Holman 7/60 parts
Solomon Holman 1/60
Peter Holman 1/60
Asa Waters 1/60
Andrew Elliott 4/60
Asa Goodell 4/60
Samuel Small 1/60
Aaron Pierce
James Taylor 2/60
Nathaniel Whitmore 2/60
Gardner Waters 1/60
Amos Trask 1/60
Stephen Stockwell 1/60
Elijah Dix 15/60
David Holman 1/60 parts
Samuel Bixby 1/60
Samuel Goodell 2/60
John Goodell 2/60
Joshua Goodell 2/60
Moody Severy 1/60
Ebenezer Chaplin 2/60
John Jacobs 1/60
Thomas Axtel 2/60
John Pierce 1/60
Elijah Waters 1/60
Asa Waters Jr. 1/60
Jeremiah Robinson 2/60

The boundaries of Township No. 1, which soon after began to be called Holmantown, were:

"Beginning at a maple tree standing in the N.W. line of Phip's Canada (Jay), and by the N. side of the Androscoggin River, thence running N. 40 degrees E. bounding by Phip's Canada six miles to a beech tree, thence N. 68 degrees W., 14 miles and 40 rods to a beech tree standing in the N.E. corner of New Pennycook (Rumford), thence S. 20 degrees E., bounding by New Pennycook, four miles and 100 rods to Androscoggin River--thence running down and bounding by said river to the bounds first mentioned."

Four lots of 320 acres each were reserved for public use--one for the first settled minister, one for the ministry, one for the schools and one for the future appropriation of the General Court.

The first meetings of the proprietors were held in Sutton, Mass. The deed to Township No. 1 was not received until 1791, so that although meetings of the Proprietors were held from the date in 1789 when Col. Holman made the first payment on the purchase, none of the Right holders began clearing of land here until after the deed was in their hands.

At the first such meeting on September 13, 1789, it was voted to send a committee to lay out the Township. Col. Holman, Deacon Waters and Jeremiah Robinson were selected.

Entries in the minutes and records for succeeding years follow:

July 1790--Voted to lay out 100-acre lots as far as the land will admit of it, and left to Col. Holman and Mr. Robinson any new arrangement of lots or making of gores.

March 1791--Voted to draw four, or if there are five, 100 acre lots to a Right.

April 1791--Voted that every 100-acre lot in the whole town shall be subjected to a road on the side of it, and across it if needed. Voted to build a road parallel to the River, and one across the Town, four rods wide.

Voted that a commons of four acres, for a meeting house commons, both in the upper and in the lower part (if one should be needed there) of the town, shall be allowed by the owner or owners of the lot or lots, where it shall be proper to stand, free of expense to the Proprietary or town.

Lots were drawn.

Voted that every four Rights shall be obliged to clear and seed 20 acres, set up a house 18 feet square, have 50 living apple trees on the land within six years from the first of this month, or forfeit to the Proprietary 50 acres on each Right.

Voted 10 shillings for cutting roads and making bridges.

January 7, 1793--Chose Dr. Dix, Col. Holman and Capt. John Holland to see to cutting of roads and to find ways to prevent trespass in Township No. 1.

Now Holmes' Market, Main street. Charles Stanley's store is listed in an 1895 Dixfield Directory. Courtesy of Douglas Nash

Voted that Dr. Dix shall have all undivided land in the Township and the Mill Lot on the stream on No. 12, Range 5--upon condition that he builds a good saw mill in two years and a good grist mill in four years.

March 1793--The mills shall be built on Webb River, Lot No. 18, Range 2.

Apparently many of the settlers came here in summer and worked their land, returning to Sutton in the fall. Evidence for this is found in the records of the meeting of Proprietors in April 1796 when a man was appointed to a committee to lay our roads "if he should go to the Township this season."

April 1798--Voted to build a bridge over Webb's River and to clear a road to Swift River.

March 1801--Some of the Right holders were slow in coming to settle, and so it was voted that every Right should have a settler on it or that every Proprietor shall have as many settlers as Rights in two years from this date--or forfeit 50 acres upon each Right.

March 1802--Peter Holman, Isaac Gleason and Archibald Severy chosen Road Commissioners. Accepted road laid out from Severy hill to the River road.

March 1803--Voted at Sutton to accept the road laid out from Aaron Severy's to Nathan Holman's.

June 21, 1803--Document 438, the Act of Incorporation.

These earliest Town Meetings of our town were actually held at various places in Sutton, Massachusetts. Now our history shifts to the events of the first years in Dixfield.

HOLMANTOWN, the name of the Township from its beginning until the Act of Incorporation in 1803, was named DIXFIELD in the incorporation. The original lines of the town map were retained, except that the present-day town of Mexico was set off and remained Holmantown for another 15 years. The new boundary line in the incorporation ran down the center of Webb's River.

At the time of the incorporation, Dr. Dix promised to donate a town library if the name was changed to Dixfield. Several years later...to quiet outraged citizens who were complaining about the lack of the promised library...Dr. Dix sent the town a box of old books. This was all the library the town ever got for changing its name!

In 1800, when a Federal census was taken, these families were settled in town:

(Many families upon arrival here lived with other families until arrangements were made for dwellings. This census lists only family heads. To show which dwellings housed more than one family the number of males is listed after the name of the head of the house. The figures are in order of ages, with the first digit showing boys under 10, the second ages 10 to 16, the third 16 to 26, the fourth 26 to 45 and the final digit all men over 45. We do not include the count of girls and women.)

George Wilson 10010
Simeon Newton 00010
Amos Trask 11020
Levi Newton 01201
Antipas Holland 00010
Joshua Moore 10010
John Holland 02010
Nathan Holman 00210
Stephen Stone 20010
Isaac Gleason 00010
Isaac Torrey 00010
John Gould 00010
William Eddy 10110
Oliver Putnam 00010
Aaron Severy 01121
Israel Richardson 00010
John Dix and Southgate 01101
Solomon Tucker 12001
Aaron Severy 01120
Israel Richmond 00010
Gardner Brown 10010
Ebenezer Harwood 00010
Batholomew Hutchinson 00010
Solomon Leland 10010
William Eddy 00020
Jonathan Morse 01020
John Marble 11101
Jonathan Holman 10010
Peter Holman 20110
Samuel Tucker 12001
Daniel Torrey 10010
Francis White 20010
Gardner Brown 10010

It was, as you can see, a settlement of young men. Only six houses had a male over 45 years of age.

By 1810 when the next census was taken, this number increased to the 72 families listed here:

Asa Axtell	Daniel Axtell
Zebulon Bryant	William Bachelder
Charles Brown	John Brown
Anna Barnard	Aaron Barton
Moses Coolidge	Simon Coolidge
Elijah Daisy	Melatiah Dillingham
William Eddy	Luther Gleason
Nathan Holman	John Gould
Ebenezer Holman	John Holland
Antipas Holland	Samuel Holland
Peter Holman	Jonathan Holman
Ebenezer Harwood	Batholomew Hutchinson
Phebe Johnston	James Johnston
Artemas Knapp	Jacob Kidder
John Kenny	Henry King
Solomon Leland	Joshua Mitchell
Joshua Moor	John Marble
Jonathan Morse	Enoch Marble
Josiah Newman	Levi Newton
Levi Newton Jr.	Jacob Newton
Isaac Newton	Simeon Newton
Benjamin Parker	Moses Park
Caleb Park	Aaron Severy
Asa Severy	Archibald Severy
Samuel Severy	Stephen Stone
Israel Richmond	John Stockbridge
John Stockbridge Jr.	Lyman Libby
Samuel Torrey	Isaac Torrey
Daniel Torrey	Amos Trask
Holmes Thomas	Jonas Tucker
Joseph Wheeler	Darius White
Israel Waters	Francis White
Gershom Waite	William Waite
Daniel Whitman	Barnabas Kenney
Oliver Putnam	Amos Smith
Joseph Mitchell	John Jay

Most of these families came from Sutton and surrounding towns in the Worcester, Mass. area. The White brothers came from Spencer, Mass. The Coolidges came from Watertown. Some families came from other towns in Maine: Holmes Thomas from Hebron; Israel Richmond from Oxford; Benjamin Parker and the Mitchells from Freeport; Wilson and Libby, probably from Falmouth. The Stockbridges and Meletiah Dilling-

ham came from North Yarmouth, though they were originally from Pembroke and Hanover, Mass. Daniel Whitman came from Acworth, N.H.

Dixfield was in Cumberland county in 1803--the shire town was Portland, the state was then Massachusetts. Dixfield has been in Oxford county since March 1805--our shire town is Paris. Until April 15, 1820 when Maine became the 23rd state, we belonged to Massachusetts.

We would belong to Franklin county today were it not for an objection to this plan by the Proprietors of Dixfield. In September 1813 they "voted to remonstrate against being set off to a new county, the 'shair' town to be Farmington. Voted to choose a committee to draft a remonstrance. Said committee to be: John Holland, Esq.; Major Amos Trask, Captain Joel Barnard."

Franklin county was not set up until March 1838...whether Dixfield was the only town that "remonstrated" and so held up for 22 years the creation of this new county would be an interesting subject for investigation.

For many years the majority of the buildings in town were log cabins. Since there were no roads adequate for wagon passage to haul in materials, a saw mill had to be erected before any boards for construction could be obtained. Most of the old frame structure have beams which were hand-dressed with the broad axe.

Accounts of the early history of other towns show that the first dwellings were often holes dug back into hillsides with the roof and front framed up in logs. It was many years before wheels of any kind

Roy Hathaway house, plains. The Dexter family from Weld in the wagon. The stump fence continued on the other side of the road from the present Advent Church to the Nursing Home.

were used in most townships. Wheels were too awkward to transport on horseback to the new towns and were difficult to build with the tools available. The founding fathers used drags and sleds in the beginning.

As in other towns, all the oldest settlements in Dixfield will be found on the hills. Historians advance several reasons for the choosing of hill sites--proximity to waterways was considered dangerous during times of Indian troubles; low land was considered unhealthful; water supply was abundant on the hillsides. But the chief reason was because all were primarily farmers--the fact that they did not have short-season seed in that period meant they must take advantage of the longer growing season afforded on the hill sides.

Much labor is required to clear a wilderness sufficiently for planting of hay and crops to sustain a family through the winter. The Proprietors were constantly admonishing the holders of Rights to do this work.

Carrying his axe, gun and kettle... very little else was taken or considered necessary...the pioneer came each spring as early as travel was expedient to spend the summer chopping trees. We know from old diaries that many of them came barefoot to their locations. If they were fortunate enough to own a horse, the animal lived on browse for the summer until "good English hay" could be seeded in.

Each succeeding summer the clearing grew. The felled timber was burned as soon as it was dry enough to make room for gardens and buildings. The largest logs not completely consumed by fire were added to the pile for a second burning. The potash left on the earth was a major guarantee of a successful first crop.

The first plantings were made around the stumps. Only after all the essential tasks were done could time be spared for removing stumps. Once out of the ground these were made into fences which lined the fields for many years.

These log fires occasionally went out of control and engulfed all the possessions of the owner. After such a fire Ebenezer Hutchinson at Weld was forced to live under two large rocks until he could rebuild his camp.

The three Holman brothers--Peter, Ebenezer and Jonathan--are believed to be the first permanent settlers. Aaron Severy was the next to build a permanent home in the township.

The account of Severy's early activity is interesting since it probably follows the pattern used by all the earliest settlers. Severy came in 1792 or 1793 with his gun and axe. After arriving at Livermore, which was the last village on the route, he set out on May 27 and walked to his lot in what was to become Dixfield. The next day he built a rude cabin and began felling trees . On July 4 he limbed down the last tree on a 10-acre fell piece. During the next two months he surveyed his land and built a hovel for his oxen.

On the last day of August he set fire to his fell piece and got an "excellent burn." He had this cleared and ready for the harrow by October 15 when he returned to Massachusetts for the winter.

The next April he again started his spring journey from Sutton with a

yoke of oxen and a set of harrow teeth. At Livermore he purchased grain for seed. While the grain was growing he built a hewn timber construction which was a step better than logs. Then he harvested his crop and threshed the grain on a flat ledge. He stored it in a crib made from hewn timbers and covered with bark for waterproofing.

The summer's work done, Severy hired Silas Coolidge at Canton Point to winter his oxen and returned to Massachusetts.

In 1795 Severy brought his family and remained in Dixfield. The house he subsequently built on Severy Hill, with its walls of 12-inch thick brickwork, was a showplace for years. Unfortunately it was razed in 1968.

Others who came in 1795 were John Marble, Gardner Brown, Amos Trask, Levi Newton, John Gould and David Torrey--all with their families. We know that John Marble had his team of oxen here the previous summer and probably all the families did the same.

Some accounts credit Newton with being the first to live within the township. It is believed he spent the winter of 1793 with his wife and sister but left in the spring. Others give the distinction instead to John Stockbridge, who did not settle permanently until years later but "built the first cabin in the settlement." This was on what is now Holt Hill.

His son Edward is said to have built the second frame house in the Village. It was located between Dr. Defoe's house and the parsonage. Dr. Pease used it for a carriage house, and it is now part of Dr. Defoe's garage at the rear of the house.

Another son, William Stockbridge, built the house directly across from Greenwood Cemetery now owned by Cameron Fish.

The first frame house in the Village was owned by Dr. Elijah Dix. It stood across from the three islands in the river. In 1800 his 19-year old son, John Dix, and a Mr. Southgate were living on this location while building the saw and grist mills on Webb's River. They probably began construction of the frame house soon after completing the mills (which were both under one roof). When Dix and Southbridge left town in 1803-4 Amos Trask began operating the mills and moved into the unfinished house. Some years later Trask used a portion of the house for the Old Yellow Tavern.

Two other houses hold traditional claim to being the first frame structures in the township. One was built by General Holland on the opposite side of the road from the Reed house on the River Road. It was a bit further down, under a steep hill. The house has been gone for many years. General John Holland was the great- great- great-grandfather of the musical Holt brothers.

The other house holding claim to being first was built by Peter Holman in 1804 and is still standing at the Center or Common. A visit inside its walls is a trip into the past with the old post office boxes and remains of the old store there to be seen. But for the fact it remains a part of the working farm operated by Arlie Holman & Son (who cannot spare time to conduct tours) the house would be on the list of National Historic Places.

THE FIRST ROAD INTO TOWN

The first road built to Dixfield came over Hannaford Hill--one of the foothills of the Rockomeka Mountains, now better known as Canton Mountain--from Jay Hill village. This description may help today's citizens identify the spot where this first road was built:

Hannaford Hill was named for Thomas Hannaford, one of the pioneer settlers of Canton. His farm was just over the Dixfield town line. Hannaford cleared land at the summit, built his house and set out an orchard. He was a pious man and helped build the church on Jay Hill with his own hands and rode to church there regularly--a distance of five miles on horseback.

Jay Hill village was once the largest place in that township with three stores, a stage house hotel and the church that stood where the town garage is now, on top of the hill.

From here the new road went past Hannaford's residence and on to Dixfield. The road was long ago discontinued. The old farm house was moved and rebuilt on a site adjacent to a road built later which crosses a portion of the Hannaford farm.

The owners of the farm from the beginning were Thomas Hannaford, Thomas Jr., John Coolidge, Fairfield Coolidge, John Swett, Amos Learned, James Kaine (in 1924).

Rolling what is now Route 2 in Dixfield's early days. Robert Bearisto still has the iron frames for four of these early road rollers.

Courtesy of Alberta Hunt

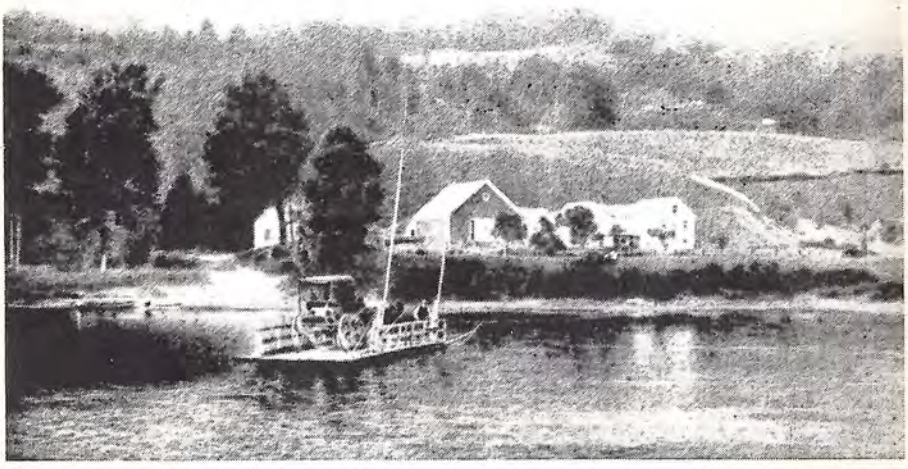
THE FIRST QUARRY

Roy Hathaway's Map of Early Settlers 1790 to 1840 (back cover) shows the location of Sheetstone Quarry where granite was cut for the foundations of the early buildings. Even though large trees now grow up through the old road bed, today's hunters and hikers can follow the road made from the quarry near the top of the mountain which curves down the side of Sheetstone all the way to Bart Swan's place.

A walk along this old roadway will engender admiration for the engineering abilities displayed in laying out this road. There were no steep upward grades for the ox teams to strain against as they dragged the stone homeward.

So many loads of granite passed over this route that it still can be seen plainly from the air when the leaves are off the trees.

About 12 miles distant is the North Jay Granite Company which was once one of the four largest in the United States. One reason for the success of the quarry was that it is of a strata formation, the layers of granite ranging from five inches to ten feet in thickness. This enabled quarry workers to select alomost any dimension with very little work as compared to other quarries. The Sheetstone Quarry was named for this special characteristic.



First the Jeremiah Hall Ferry, later Leonard Brown. The Dixfield landing was in front of the Town Farm. In 1831, the town refused to pay Samuel Morrill $6.75 for establishing this ferry at Jeremiah Hall's, and it did not begin operating for some years after that date- about 1841. *Courtesy of Elaine Mitchell.*

DIXFIELD'S FERRIES

The ferry, a conveyance for carrying goods and passengers across water, can be anything from a rowboat to a huge ship. Our first ferries were little more than rafts with a maximum capacity of one team and rig. Energy to provide passage across the Androscoggin River was "push and paddle"!

Later a rope cable was stretched from bank to bank over a pulley and the water current was the power that propelled the boat.

The town of Dixfield paid $47.73 for new rope for the Green Ferry in 1879. Eleven years later rope for the Wyman Ferry cost the town $60. This perhaps shows the lifespan of these ropes since both names apply to the same ferry. One wishes the bills stated the number of feet of rope purchased. A tremendous amount of rope must have been needed--and one wonders how it came and how it was spliced. There must have been several wagon loads!

Merrill Knight, Peru pioneer, whose daughter married Peter Holman, began ferrying across the Androscoggin about the time the town was incorporated.

Merrill Knight Jr. continued this service until 1829. A man named Young was operating here before 1840, as shown in Roy Hathaway's map -- perhaps the Daniel Young who is mentioned in Village account books before 1840, and who was living on Severy Hill in 1850.

The access to the landing, then, was a bit below York Corner.

Whether there was any regular traffic across this route for the

Dixfield-Peru Town Ferry. Dixfield landing across from York's Corner. Last operated by Irving Kidder in 1927.

Courtesy of Mrs. Leslie McLeod

next fifty years, we know not, but it seems unlikely as records say: "Jeremiah Hall bought the boat in 1841 and moved it upriver a mile and a half."

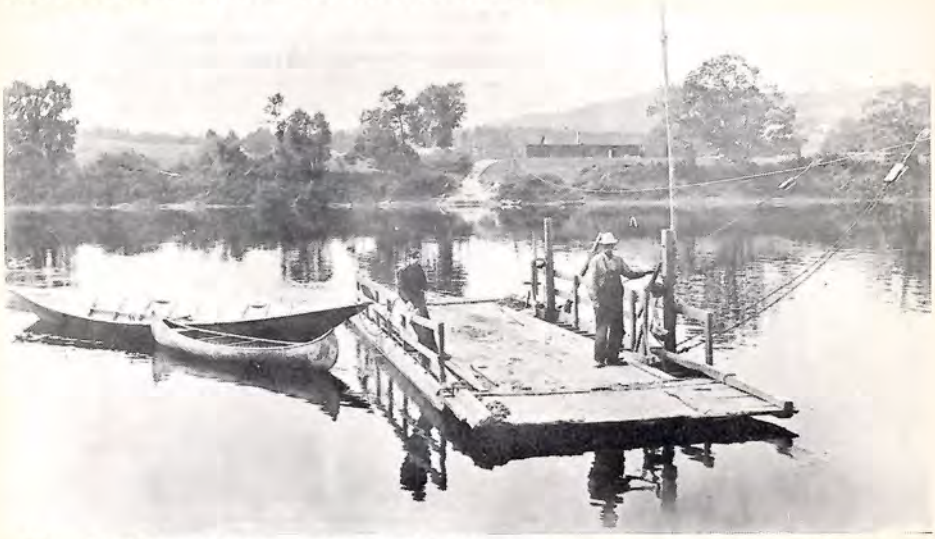
Known as Brown's Ferry -- since Leonard Brown bought it from Solomon Alden in 1867 and ran it until 1892, when this route was ended -- this ferry landing was just about opposite the old town farm, now Easter's.

Whether there was dissatisfaction with the way Brown conducted this service, or whether in anticipation of the arrival of the railroad -- or simply because it had become an inconvenient place for a crossing -- for some reason, the county commissioners changed the crossing back to the original York Corner location and the towns of Dixfield and Peru had started subsidizing the ferry there before 1889.

In 1849, the town paid $161.88 to build a new road from York Corner to the Peru ferry. This new road began almost directly opposite ite the Dixfield Common road and continued in a fairly straight line to the river, ending behind the present Williamson house -- where traces of the landing depot can yet be seen.

We will probably never know all the owners and operators of this first -- and final ferry. In 1889. and for several years, it was called simultaneously the Green Ferry and Wyman Ferry, and was perhaps owned by Wyman who landed near Green's Store in Peru Center.

Barrett and Kidder, the Kidder Brothers -- and lastly, Irving Kidder ran the ferry here from 1900 until 1927 when operations ceased and thus ended all Dixfield ferries. The last fees charged were 25¢ for a car and 10¢ for pedestrians.



Wm. Paul Sr. Ferry, River road. His house gone -- Edward Ellis Sr. lives on the Paul land. The Paul sawmill was once across the road on same side as the Ferry School. *Courtesy of Elaine Mitchell*

Austin's Ferry, Mexico side. Crossed near the present bridge -- stopped in 1895 when the bridge was completed.
Courtesy of Elaine Mitchell

Just above the bridge in Mexico was another ferry that operated until the toll bridge was built, and particularly in the later years was probably used more by Dixfield's citizens than either of the other ferries. Daniel Young owned it prior to 1828.

Hosea Austin, an early Dixfield resident, was the owner of this ferry until 1883. He later moved across the bridge and built a house next to the old Holland house presently being torn down.

His grandson, E. Bertrand Willoughby, used to recall getting up at night to take the ferry across when he heard the horn blow on the opposite shore.

John Ellis bought the ferry in 1883, and Nelson Campbell tells of students at Dixfield Academy going up on a Saturday when the ice went out, to help Ellis launch the ferry boat. "After which task," says he, "We all took a free ride across the river."

Charles Hammond ran this ferry during the busy time when the trains were coming in to the Dixfield station at West Peru.

When water was low in the summer, the boat could be ferried only half way across, then the teams would plunge into the water and ford the rest of the way. On returning, the boat would proceed as far as the water would allow, the ferryman would let down the bridge and the horses would clamber up and onto the boat. If there were no teams on a crossing, pedestrians used a boat to finish the journey, or waded.

Another Dixfield ferry, that operated for over 20 years, was the

one owned by William Paul. This is the ferry that gave the Line School its second name of "Ferry School", for its proximity to the ferry landing.

Mr. Paul used this private ferry to transport lumber from his sawmill across to the railroad at Peru, and stopped ferrying between 1910 and 1915.

Could we but know, there certainly have been some exciting stories relating to these ferry passages!

In 1906, Barrett and Kidder were sued in the "ferry matter" and paid $275 in damages, but no details are given.

Dr. Tingley had his horse and carriage backed into the river, but "no harm done".

Spring floods, storms, gale winds, nervous horses and oxen, broken equipment -- any one of these would have made the ferry trip more adventuresome than the sedate bridge crossings of today!

What a tribute it is to these ferry operators of the past that we note no deaths by drowning in the more than 130 years of operation -- other than that of a horse that plunged overboard sometime in the 1900's.

Using today's slang we might say, "It was some kind of record!"

Fires have leveled many of our old buildings. Shown here are the ruins of the Tainter house which stood where the Holmes parking lot is now, on Main street. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Probably taken in the late 1800's. A traveling salesman who supplied the country stores. *Courtesy of Elaine Mitchell*

A view up Weld Street taken from the present Hawthorne home, showing the beautiful trees that once lined our streets. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Science Hill School pupils, 1903. Maude Rollins, teacher.
Courtesy of Althea Fish

The second brick school house at the Center, built 1830-31. In use until 1919 when a new building was erected. Early town meetings held here. *Courtesy of Althea Fish*

THE FIRST SCHOOLS

At the first town meeting 12 March 1804 held at the home of Levi Newton, the selectmen were appointed as a committee to divide the town into school districts and $120 was raised for support of schools. This was, for that time, a generous amount.

Schools were held for two terms a year -- one of six or eight weeks through the hot months of summer, and another for nine or ten weeks from late November on. These were periods that coincided with slack periods on the home farm.

The first schools were taught in one room of a private home -- the 1820 House on Weld Street had such a schoolroom in an upstairs chamber.

Each District raised the money to provide for its own school as late as 1886, for the Annual Report of that year tells us of a private school in the Weld Road at the home of Charles Delano (now John Black), upstairs in the north chamber, being run on money withdrawn from District # 1.

Each district had its own pay scale for teaching, and the salaries paid were handsome! The men teachers nearly always got paid double the amount paid females. In the 1880's, the salaries rose as high as three dollars a week, with an additional two dollars for board.

The Annual Reports tell of oral examinations in all schools at the end of each term.

At one time there were 13 districts in town. In 1828, there must have been seven -- as seven agents were appointed. Since in those days the agents were named from the special area around the school, it is possible to tell where the schools were situated by reading the names of these agents: Levi Stowell, Ira Marble, Daniel Foster, Noah Townsend, Joshua Dunn, Aaron Severy, Abijah White.

From the 1870's on, the Village District waxed in school population as the other districts waned. Most could not maintain an average of the eight pupils required by law and hovered on the brink of closure for the next twenty years and more. One family moving out of the district would often take every pupil with it -- and the school would reopen when a new family of children moved in.

Town Reports are missing from 1804 to 1872 -- and very sketchily written up into the 1900's. Piecing together from the existing Reports, we can give the locations of the districts with the exception of # 13. Apparently this district did not stay long in existence, as no mention of it can be found.

DISTRICT # 1, THE VILLAGE DISTRICT

The first school in this Village district was held as early as 1810 in an "old red school house" located on a point of land at the junction of Webb's and Androscoggin Rivers. (Back of the Odd Fellows block)

Later this building was moved to a lot opposite the south end of Weld Street and occupied by Silas Leonard as a store, then moved up Weld Street opposite Hawthorne's Funeral Home, and then further up Weld to the old Clark place.

The first school marm ever to grab a boy by the collar in this school was a Mrs. Small; next a maiden lady, Lucy Wheeler; and next a sister to Mrs. William Barnard.

In 1840, when Isaac Randall came to commence a 50 year law practice, he taught school for several terms in a hall under the roof of "The Boarding House" which was connected to the Fred Chase store (Harlow Block area). The lower story was open and used as a horse and lumber shed, and the school was reached by stairs in this shed.

The next school building of which we find trace was the main part of the former Theodore Robbins-Isaac Libby house which stood where the Catholic Church parking lot now is. When it was built is unknown, but early enough so that it was entirely put together with wooden pins.

Then the scholars were taken out of this building and relocated in the first of the brick school houses to stand on the same site on lower Weld Street.

First brick school on Weld Street. At one time Eugene Hale-- later Senator from Maine, taught 2nd floor classes in this school.

Courtesy of Wirt Horne

The second brick school on the same site on lower Weld Street. Built 1883, and in use until 1910. Courtesy of Alberta Hunt

The original brick building had a sloping floor. The back seat was one long plank, and the double seats were fastened on each side of the building so that a person had to step over these before taking a seat.

In 1883, this building was razed and replaced with a much larger one -- the bricks from the old structure were incorporated into the west wall of the new school.

This second building served as both a grammar and high school until 1910 when a wooden school house was constructed on High Street.

This High Street school burned in 1915, was replaced in 1916, and presently serves as a junior high school.

DISTRICT # 2 WELD DISTRICT

Before the old roads were discontinued, one could have turned right at Stephen Leavitt's, on the way to Weld, gone up the hill past Lucien Eustis's, and continued on to a fork in the road.

The left turn would have taken you to the eastern side of Carthage village, near the town dump.

The right turn would have brought you close to the Storer Cemetery.

The school house sat just a short distance from the fork in this road.

In 1886, N.S. Stowell was the teacher here.

One of the Severy Hill schools. *Courtesy of Walter Kidder*

DISTRICT # 3 SEVERY HILL DISTRICT (Later Berry District)

The original brick schoolhouse was razed, and replaced in 1902 with a wooden building and shed at a cost of $425. When the schoolhouse was finally closed, the lumber from it was used in the construction of the Sherwood Robbins house on Robbins Avenue.

Line or Ferry School, River road. *Courtesy of Alberta Hunt*

DISTRICT # 4 LINE SCHOOL (Later Paul or Ferry School)

Situated on the River Road, near the Canton town line, on the exact spot where Timothy Richards now lives -- formerly Crocker's Boarding Home -- this was later called the Paul or Ferry school because of its proximity to the home of William Paul who ran a ferry back of his house. Edward Ellis Sr. now lives on part of this Paul farm.

In 1884, Superintendent N. Stowell says it is "All worn out, situated on a sand bank, and the poorest school building in town."

It was used off and on until 1925 when the scholars were transported to the Village.

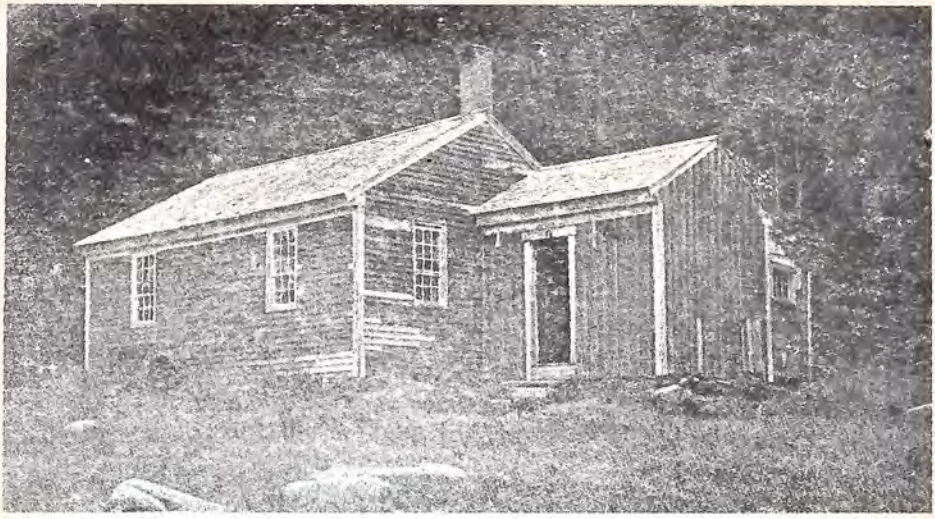
Pupils and teachers at Line or Ferry School, River road.
Courtesy of Erma Coolidge

DISTRICT # 5 SCIENCE HILL OR LELAND DISTRICT

Here stood a brick school for a hundred years which once housed more than fifty scholars. The district was once noted for its spelling schools and is said to have sent out more collegiates than any other place its size for miles around.

It had, also, the dubious distinction of being noted for the ease with which scholars passed the teachers out the windows.

In 1895, the district became part of the East Dixfield Union.



Science Hill school house. *Courtesy of Marjorie Hall Bryant*

DISTRICT # 6 CENTRE OR COMMON DISTRICT

The first school in town was held here -- in 1832 there was a brick school house. The Annual Meeting was held there that year.

This was, perhaps, the same brick building that stood until 1919.

Before this there was a small red school house between York's Corner and the turn of the road leading to William Drown's. The scholars from the Centre attended this school -- and it must have been a long weary walk!

Later the Lancaster school was split off from this district. It stood across from the dump and was named for the land owner there. School was held here before 1890, and in 1917 students were transported to the Paul school.

In 1906: "The school building at the Centre is gone. Nothing remains but a shell unfit to house cattle or sheep for the winter. Lancaster building is no better. Town would do better to construct some central building for the students of Centre, Lancaster, and Towle schools." A new building was constructed in 1919 at a cost of $3159.40, which included a shed and toilet.

DISTRICT # 7 DUNN DISTRICT (Later Farnham District)

This school was kept until the 1900's and burned in the 1940's, along with all other buildings on the road, by the Timberlands Company.

Columbus Farnham was the school agent in 1833, the school being next door to his farm. The road has been discontinued since the 1940's.

Winter terms were never held in this school because of the way the snow drifted into the approaches.

It seems logical to assume that the first school here was also brick, since we know that many of the first homes were.

In 1872, an act of incorporation to rebuild the school in District # 7 was recorded with the Maine courts.

DISTRICT # 8 EAST DIXFIELD DISTRICT

This was united with Wilton in 1831.

DISTRICT # 9 TORREY DISTRICT

Located in the present Lucien Eustis-Rachel Averill neighbourhood, the former home of many Torrey families.

In 1892 the old school building that had burned was replaced by a new one and the old school house lot was sold for $100 -- so the location must have been changed.

Lena Kidder began the fall term of that year with the smallest scholars in the upper chamber of William W. White's house, while the school house was being rebuilt.

Hortense Torrey, whose will gave the money for the Dixfield Municipal Building in 1962, taught in this school in 1892.

Older citizens used to speak of the day that Granville Torrey burned the school house down when Hortense refused to marry him.

DISTRICT # 10

Located on the Hathaway Map just below Luther Holman, the road to it ran roughly parallel to Route Two.

Children on the now discontinued portion of the Parker Hill Road, and on the old road by the present Cecil Merrill place, would have attended this school.

DISTRICT # 11 MERRILL HOLMAN OR TOWLE DISTRICT

The last building in this district is the green building beside Marshall Holman on the Valley road, and has been converted to a dwelling house. Mrs. Lyman Holman was the last teacher here in 1931.

DISTRICT # 12

This district was in operation for only a few years. It is mentioned in the Town Reports for the first time in 1891, and was united with Carthage in 1895.

No teacher was ever named in the records, and the expenses for the school -- $8.40 in 1891; $4.00 in 1892 -- seem to show that it was one family being tutored at home. Only one pupil was from this district in 1895.

DISTRICT # 13

Nothing is known of this district.

In 1893, the government signed a bill abolishing school districts and adopting town supervision of all school affairs.

Thus the transition from primitive methods so well suited to pioneer life was made to the broader system contemplated by the new law.

It is impossible to tell from the old Town Reports just when the first high school in town was begun.

The State passed a School Act in 1874 which promised funds for free high schools. From this date on, every school in town was called a "free high school". This is true of other towns as well -- and perhaps the term had a different connotation in those days.

There have been two distinct academies, or high schools, in Dixfield's history. The first recorded in state statutes was incorporated 19 March 1852 -- an act to incorporate the Trustees of Dixfield Academy.

We know not how long the first academy endured. Lack of enrollment must have caused the closing.

The second act of incorporation for the Trustees of Dixfield Academy is recorded 28 February 1883.

There is no evidence of how many years a student could attend this academy. Canton for some time offered only two years of high school -- students who desired four years of learning went to a Preparatory School such as Hebron, or to larger cities like Auburn. In the beginning, we know that often one term was followed by an absence to earn money enough for another term.

No written record exists that tells when our high school began a regular four year schedule. However, since the commencement exercises are dated as 74th in 1975, 73rd in 1974, etc., the first class to graduate from a four year course was undoubtedly in 1901 -- and the year set down back when that person knew.

In 1901, there was a graduating class of six young ladies.

In 1891, the state passed a law requiring the towns to furnish school books. $500 was raised that year, and the amount considered more than ample to furnish all the ten districts operating in 1891.

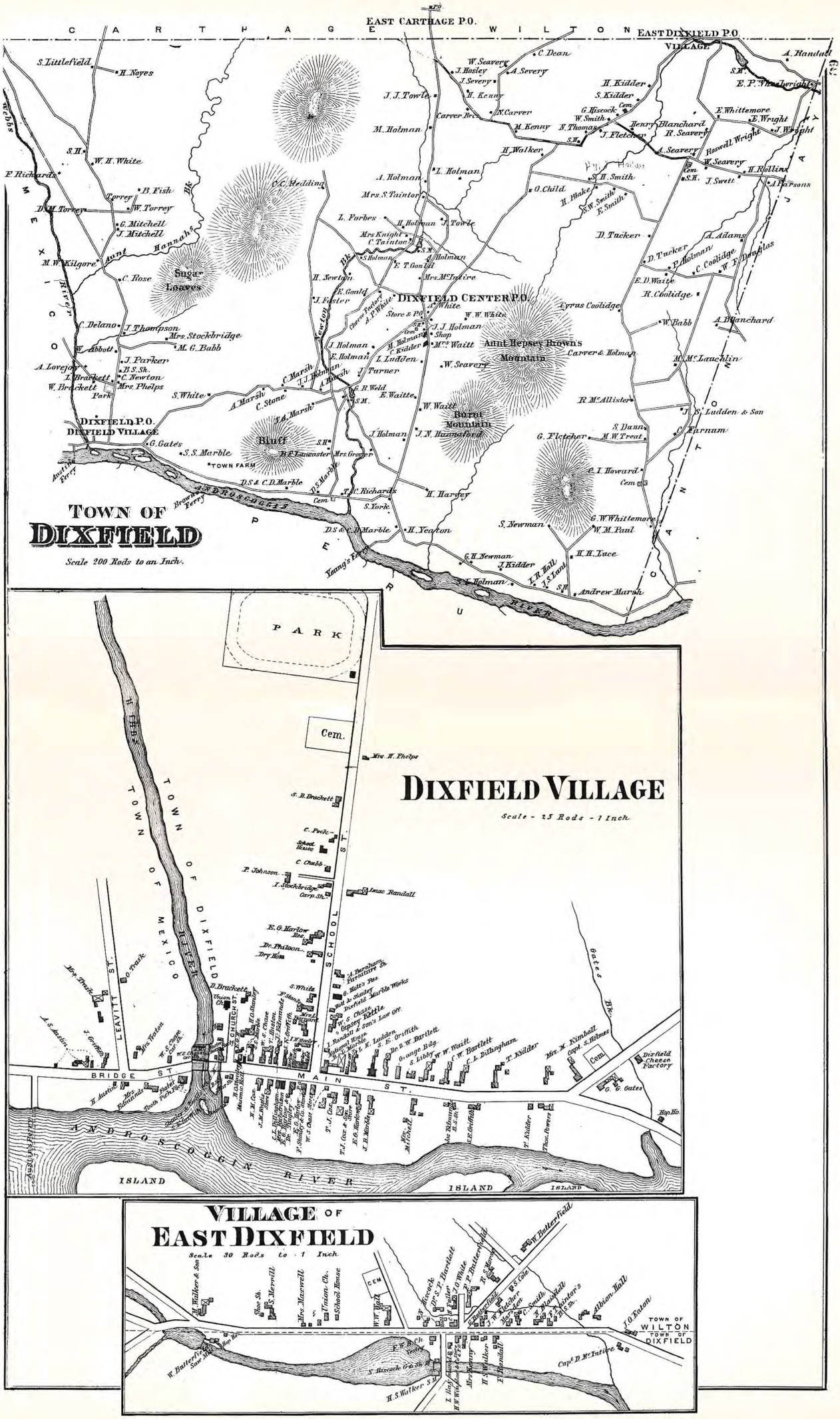
Today if we find educational costs excessive, we might heed the advice given by the Superintendent of Schools, William Carver, in the 1883 Town Report:

"A free high school supported by subscription in District # 1 remained in session 10 weeks. Number of scholars attending - 39. We would recommend that other districts in town avail themselves of this means of educating their scholars; as the cost of this school is very small in comparison with its values.

Total cost, including board and wages of teacher: - $68.00."

The plains, Weld road. Background building is old school, later Theodore Robbins -- now Catholic Church parking lot.
Foreground buildings -- Cyrus Newton and his blacksmith shop. Now Freeman Tibbetts' home. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

The Cleon Corrow house on lower Main street. The central part built in 1827 by Joseph Wheeler, later enlarged by George Gates.
Courtesy of Walter Kidder


CARTHAGE
EAST CARTHAGE P.O.
WILTON
EAST DIXFIELD P.O.
VILLAGE
TOWN OF
DIXFIELD
Scale 200 Rods to an Inch.
DIXFIELD CENTER P.O.
DIXFIELD P.O.
DIXFIELD VILLAGE
Sugar Loaves
Aunt Hepsey Browns Mountain
Burnt Mountain
Bluff
TOWN FARM
Cem.
PARK
DIXFIELD VILLAGE
Scale - 25 Rods - 1 Inch.
MAIN ST.
BRIDGE ST.
SCHOOL ST.
ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER
ISLAND
VILLAGE OF
EAST DIXFIELD
Scale 30 Rods to 1 Inch.
TOWN OF WILTON
TOWN OF DIXFIELD

The Church on the Hill, built in 1828. *Courtesy of Harold Horne*

THE EARLY CHURCHES

The first church records that we find are for the organization of the old Congregational Church in May 1806. The first charter members were: Andrew and Mehitable Elliott, Joseph and Lucy Wheeler, Samuel and Polly Park, Lucretia Marble, Lois Leland, Esther Kidder, and Sally Waite Crafts.

The first baptisms were in May of that year, for the children of Andrew Elliott, Jacob Kidder, and Solomon Leland.

This group met in private homes for over twenty years while working to build a structure for public worship.

The Church On The Hill was first dedicated 28 November 1828, older citizens thought, as a Union Church. It was rededicated 6 January 1830, possibly as a Congregational Church.

In 1856, this church building was sold at auction to the Universalists who worshipped there until 1912 when they mergered with the Free-will Baptists to form the present Congregational Church.

Old town histories are replete with feuds among the church membership. Before newspapers, radio, libraries, and other entertainment facilities, the church was one of the few outlets for releasing passions. Dixfield was no exception to the rule, as records show.

In 1828, when the church on the hill was built, Charles Lyman Eustis had donated a piece of land on lower Main Street near the cemetery for which he also gave the land, for a church site.

His friends wanted the church built on this spot. Another faction desired to have the church constructed on the hill where it now stands.

The granite blocks for the foundation had been cut at Sheetstone Quarry and were stored in the yard of the Edmunds Blacksmith Shop (now the Social Building) awaiting the decision as to which site would be approved.

It is fairly obvious that Edmunds must have been in the rival camp from Eustis, as bright and early one morning before the vote was taken, the granite blocks were discovered to have moved, during the night, to the location on the hill. This settled the question of where the church would be put.

In 1856, the Ladies Aid Society sent Mr. Eustis to Boston with $75. to purchase a bell for the church. He rode there on horseback and bought the winning bell in a contest for bells with the best tone. Thus the town has an exceptionally fine church bell.

The Chapel on Main Street now used by the present Congregational Society was built in 1901, and first purchased by the Baptists and Methodists who finished building it.

Charles Lyman Eustis erected a chapel on lower Main Street -- dates differ from 1843 to 1846, and 1848 -- in which the Methodists and Congregationalists held services for 30 years. This is now a private dwelling house -- and stands not far from the Social Building and Chapel, nearer the Timberland Office.

The Social Building, beside the Chapel, was built by Eli Edmunds for a blacksmith shop around 1850-51. He and his son Joseph operated a blacksmith shop for nearly 70 years there. In 1919, it was sold to Ralph Walton who remodeled it into a garage. Klaus Brackett, the next owner, sold it to Owen Harding who ran a Sporting Goods Store there until it was bought as a Social Building.

The Chapel at Dixfield Centre was built in 1896.

There was a Free Baptist Church at Severy Hill long before a church at East Dixfield with over 50 members and a Sabbath School of 40 pupils, taught by Aunt Polly Severy.

Now used as a chapel by The Church On The Hill. Built 1901 by the Free Will Baptists and Methodists on lower Main street. The building beside it is the former blacksmith shop, now the Social Building.

Courtesy of Wirt Horne

Eli Edmunds, whose first blacksmith shop across the Webb's River bridge burned before 1851. He and his son were village blacksmiths for seventy years in the shop that is now the Social Building.

Courtesy of Wirt Horne

OUTSIDE CONNECTIONS

The first postoffice in town was at the Center, established in 1817. Previous to that time letters were brought by travelers or could be picked up at the closest stop on the Post Road.

Post Roads were established by law in 1810. The Old Post Road from Boston came at least as far as Scarboro, as we find references to it in old deeds. Another Post Road described in Gaines Universal Register went from Augusta, by Readfield, Mt. Vernon, Chester, New Sharon, and Farmington.

The first mail that came to the Dixfield office was from Jay Hill over Hannaford Hill, passing by Aaron Severy's home, to the Center. For many years the mail on this route was carried on horseback and only twice a week. Henry Haines was the postman.

John Marble, Jr., who lived on the Common, was the first post-master.

Around 1817, mail was brought from Paris to Andover and then to Dixfield by a four-horse coach. Peru mail was sent from the Center postoffice across the ferry to Peru.

The postoffice at East Dixfield was established in 1829. The first envelopes anywhere were used in 1839, and the first postage stamps were authorized in 1847.

For many years the town had three post offices -- at the Center, in the west village, and in the east village.

Road out of town, lower Main. First house is W. Putnam Undertaking Establishment. House on top of hill, burned, was the Abbot place. Middle house was McGouldrick home for many years.

Courtesy of Vernon Robbins

Rivers were forded in the beginning years.

A natural ford back of the Opera House was in use up to the time of the free bridge by drovers who had bought cattle, pigs, and sheep in the outlying districts and walked them through to the Brighton market in Massachusetts.

Older people recalled seeing as many as a thousand sheep come through the Village in these droves. It took so long to get the sheep across the river, since they had to be carried across, that they usually bedded down the herd and spent the night on the opposite bank.

One wagon went along to carry supplies and any cripples.

When boats began to be used, the first ones were "dugouts". The central portion of a large log was chopped and burned out, and the outside roughly shaped with an axe. Merrill Knight, the Peru pioneer, used one of these when he was burned out of his first cabin and went to Wilson in-laws who were living on the Guy Andrews-Ann Ferris place on the Canton Point road.

Another means of transportation between Dixfield and the world outside was by stage. These stages went to meet the ships at Hallowell and Augusta, carrying shingles, potash, farm produce -- articles the farmer could sell for cash money. During this period, wagon would probably be a better descriptive term than stage. The return trip brought home goods that had been ordered -- molasses, window glass, and whatever else that was needed and could not be home-grown.

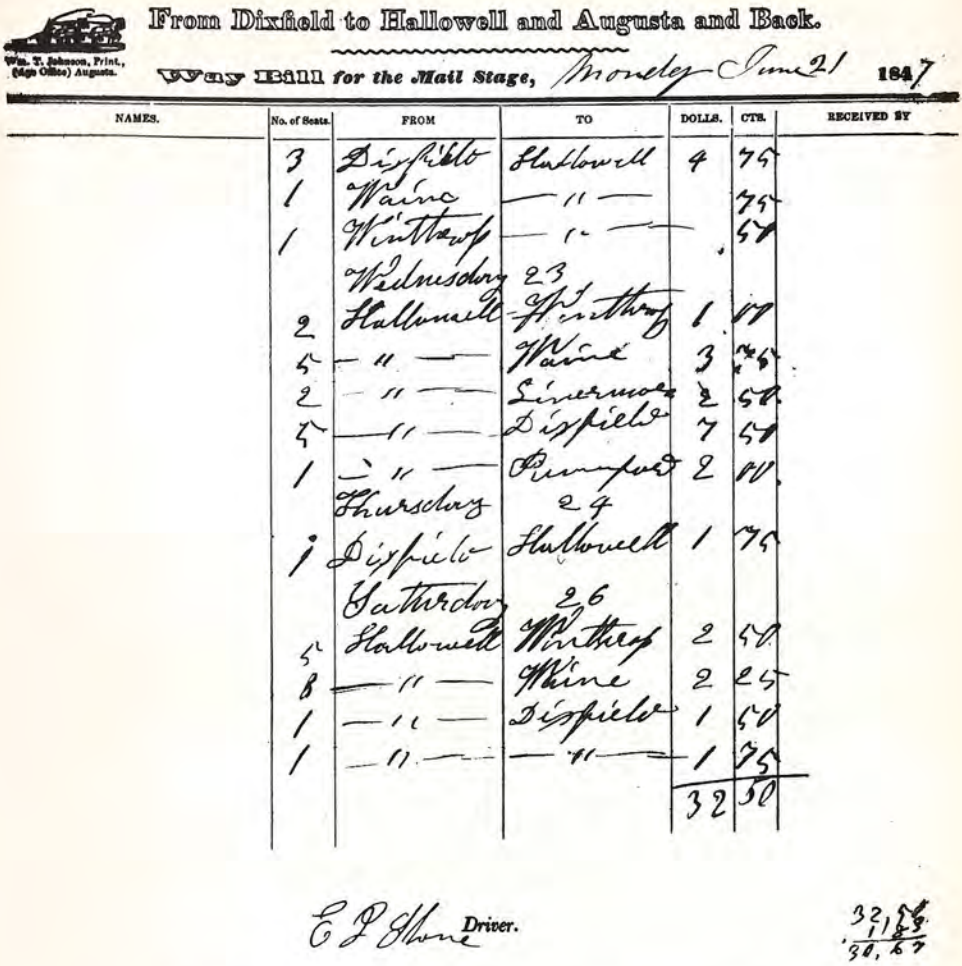
Isaac Waite's diary tells of going over Severy Hill, Science Hill, Jay Hill, Kents Hill, "baiting" the team at Winthrop, and on to Augusta or Hallowell.

Thaddeus White, who lived near the bridge that still bears his name, drove stage from Dixfield to Hallowell and Augusta -- two trips a week. He had in his possession a "Way Bill for Mail Stage, 25 August 1846. From Dixfield to Augusta and Hallowell, and back. E.J. Stone, driver. Makes two trips a week." The bill gave the number of passengers carried on each trip, and the amount of fares. The amount of fares collected on the above bill was $54.50.

As the railroad came closer, the stages drove to the nearest depot -- first to Bryant's Pond, 18 miles distant; then when the tracks reached North Jay, only 13 miles away, to that town; and in later years to Canton.

The Old Stage Line conducted by W.H. Tainter and John Kidder left Dixfield every morning but Sunday at 7:00 A.M. It passed over Hall Hill, to the Common by way of Robert Bearisto's, through South Carthage, and East Dixfield to North Jay -- arriving in time to meet the train.

This must have been about 1883, as a newspaper clipping of that year says that John Ellis has sold the stage route to Tainter and had bought the ferry property.



Wm. T. Johnson, Print., (Age Office) Augusta.

From Dixfield to Hallowell and Augusta and Back.

Way Bill for the Mail Stage, Monday June 21 1847

NAMES.	No. of Seats.	FROM	TO	DOLLS.	CTS.	RECEIVED BY
	3	Dixfield	Hallowell	4	75	
	1	Waine	— " —		75	
	1	Winthrop	— " —		50	
		Wednesday	23			
	2	Hallowell	Winthrop	1	00	
	5	— " —	Waine	3	75	
	2	— " —	Livermore	2	50	
	5	— " —	Dixfield	7	50	
	1	— " —	Rumford	2	00	
		Thursday	24			
	1	Dixfield	Hallowell	1	75	
		Saturday	26			
	5	Hallowell	Winthrop	2	50	
	8	— " —	Waine	2	25	
	1	— " —	Dixfield	1	50	
	1	— " —	— " —	1	75	
				32	50	

E P Horne Driver.

32,50
1,83
30,67

Waybill from stage line. Courtesy of Wirt Horne

Stage houses provided accomodations along the route. One still standing is the former Tom Ellis house on the Canton Point road now occupied by Kenneth Libby.

From a clipping in THE DIXFIELD CITIZEN for 5 May 1892, we read that the PORTLAND AND RUMFORD RAILWAY began building the fifteen mile extension from Canton to Rumford Falls, and but for a delay in receiving iron for the bridges would have reached Dixfield by 10 May 1892.

THE PORTLAND, SACO, AND PORTSMOUTH RAILROAD was completed in 22 December 1842 -- and this marks the beginning of railroad service in Maine. By considering these dates, one can more easily picture how our predecessors traveled.

Bridge spans the spray of the river. Hosea Austin's tannery, Mexico side of Webb's River, on left. The oldest Dixfield saw and grist mill in the background, right. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

WEBB'S RIVER CROSSINGS

Starting with the first crude wooden bridge across Webb's River, which the Sutton Proprietors found "removed" in their absence, there have been several spans across this stream.

An iron bridge for District #1, at a cost of $400, replaced the previous wooden structure in 1880.

In 1906, this first smaller iron bridge was moved upriver to afford temporary crossing while a new bridge of iron was placed, and then removed to East Dixfield to span the Seven Mile Stream.

Dixfield shared with Mexico the cost of the 1905-6 bridge -- each town paid $1925., and this included the abutments.

There used to be a short bridge just before the main span over Webb's River. The town kept adding fill to bring the road up to the bridge level, and in 1927 asked for funds "to finish the fill under the short bridge opposite the Braid Mill."

In 1928, more money was asked for fill near the Braid Mill, and eventually enough was furnished to dispense entirely with the smaller bridge.

In October 1883 the Jefferson White Bridge, near the fairgrounds and a bit further up stream, was completed.

The Annual Report of 1895 gives the expense of stone work done on both the Village and Jefferson White bridges.

As time passed, this Jefferson White bridge took the name of Jef-

ferson's brother who lived near him -- and we know it today as the "Thaddeus White" bridge.

The dams on Webb's River were built near its mouth to furnish water power for the mills -- and here the steep solid-rock sides and bed of granite was ideally suited by nature for dam sites.

There were three dams here near the bridge.

Above the bridge were two dams which were built about the time that the saw and grist mills were erected.

The upper dam was about one hundred feet from the middle dam with a small basin between the two, which had flumes to carry water to run under the mills.

The lower dam, built as late as 1855, was below the bridge nearer to the mouth of Webb's River.

From these dams was built an intricate system of sluices and channels which provided the water power for a number of mills situated near the banks.

During one of the floods in the early 1900's -- probably the 1936 flood -- Carroll Marble was afraid the huge ice cakes would sweep the Braid Mill from its foundation, and he hired a Mr. Therriault to dynamite the remaining dam.

There have been no dams since that date.

Upper dam on Webb River, showing oldest grist mill and saw mill under one roof. Built 1803-4. Perhaps the potash building in background. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Paul Willoughby remembers fishing, when a boy, on the dam above the Thad White bridge. This was a dam made of earth and logs that was put in to raise the water sufficiently to permit passage of the clay barges to the Brackett Brick Yard - now McGouldrick Park. A six foot break in the dam, on the Mexico side, allowed the motor boats to pass through, and this section was filled whenever the barges came down -- this raised the water a foot or so, and made the rapids navigable.

When the Gates and Harlow conveyor was begun further downstream, the remnants of this dam were cleared away by Wid Ricker and Jules Bordeaux.

Half a mile or so above the Paul Willoughby home on the Carthage road, a bridge crossed to the Charles Newton farm. Portions of the abutments are still visible.

The train arrives at Dixfield station, West Peru.
Courtesy of Alberta Hunt

The Androscoggin Bridge, opened in 1895. Courtesy of Alberta Hunt

THE ANDROSCOGGIN BRIDGED!

When the train arrived in West Peru in 1892, traffic over Austin's Ferry became very brisk. However, there were periods during spring floods, and in winter, when the ferries could not operate -- and people yearned for a bridge!

It must have been a happy occasion when the first one, a toll bridge, opened to the public on 29 July 1895!

One person could cross for two cents, a single team was ten cents, a double team cost fifteen cents -- and later when automobiles came, they were charged ten cents. Special tickets were issued by the month, and the highest rate was for a four horse team -- twenty cents.

John Harlow was instrumental in having this bridge built.

The granite for the abutments was taken from the Morrill Ledge in Peru.

The toll keepers, with their families, lived during the time of their employment in the little white house at the end of the bridge, on the east side, which was built at the time of the bridge construction.

The toll keepers were:

Edward H. Virgin 1895
Lewis M. Wing 1898
John N. Reed 1900
S.F. Robinson 1901
S.A. and C.A. Wilson 1905
Munroe Peabody 1910 until the end in 1921.

On 1 October 1921, the stock company was paid $25,000 by the following concerns and became a free bridge. The amounts paid were:

Town of Dixfield -- $2,550.
Town of Peru -- $2,000.
Berst Foster Co. -- $1500.
N.S. Stowell Co. -- $1500.
Burnham & Morrill Co. -- $200.
County -- $8,500.
State -- $8,750.

Some small idea of how welcome was this first bridge across the Androscoggin can be gained by reading the account of the good Dr. Sturtevant crossing the river on the ice one night to deliver a baby on the Peru side -- and returning in the darkness hours later, only to discover a few feet off shore that the ice had gone out in his absence.

First iron bridge over Webb River at Dixfield.
Sluice-way in foreground, beyond lower dam, to supply Forster mill.
Courtesy of Wirt Horne

A SET OF FIRSTS

The first cordwainer, or shoemaker, to set up business here was Joe Durgin, in the 1820's.

Men had to take their cowhides to Canton and get Amos Turner to do the tanning, and then Durgin made boots and shoes for the family.

Wint Andrews, who was born about 1850, tells us that: "There never was a tannery in Peru or Dixfield that I ever heard of!"-- but does not add that there was a tannery in East Dixfield, and two just over the Webb's River bridge in Mexico.

He also tells us that Jno. Aldrich ran a repair shop for sleds and wagons, and other tools, in the late 1820's.

One of the first stores in town was built by a Farnum -- perhaps the Jedidiah Farnham who married in 1812, Isobelle Knapp of Mexico. He had a store and house previous to 1822 on upper Weld Street -- opposite Robbins Avenue.

The old county road from Parker Hill used to come down the boundary line of the Bernard Kidder pasture, emerging on Weld Street at about this spot.

In 1840, Fred Chase had quite a store near the Harlow Block site. We know that he sold lumber, as mention is made of a lumber storehouse in the adjacent building. How long he had been in business before this date, we are unable to determine.

Other merchants before 1850 were Daniel Leland at Science Hill; Jonathon and Col. John Holman at the Centre; Silas Leonard, Charles T Chase, Ephraim Marble, Enos Dillingham, Aaron Park, Isaac N. and Calvin Stanley, Thomas J. Cox, Humphrey M. Eaton, Harris Farnum, and Milton Austin.

The first licensed practitioners were Dr. Benjamin Chaplin and Dr. Joseph K. White.

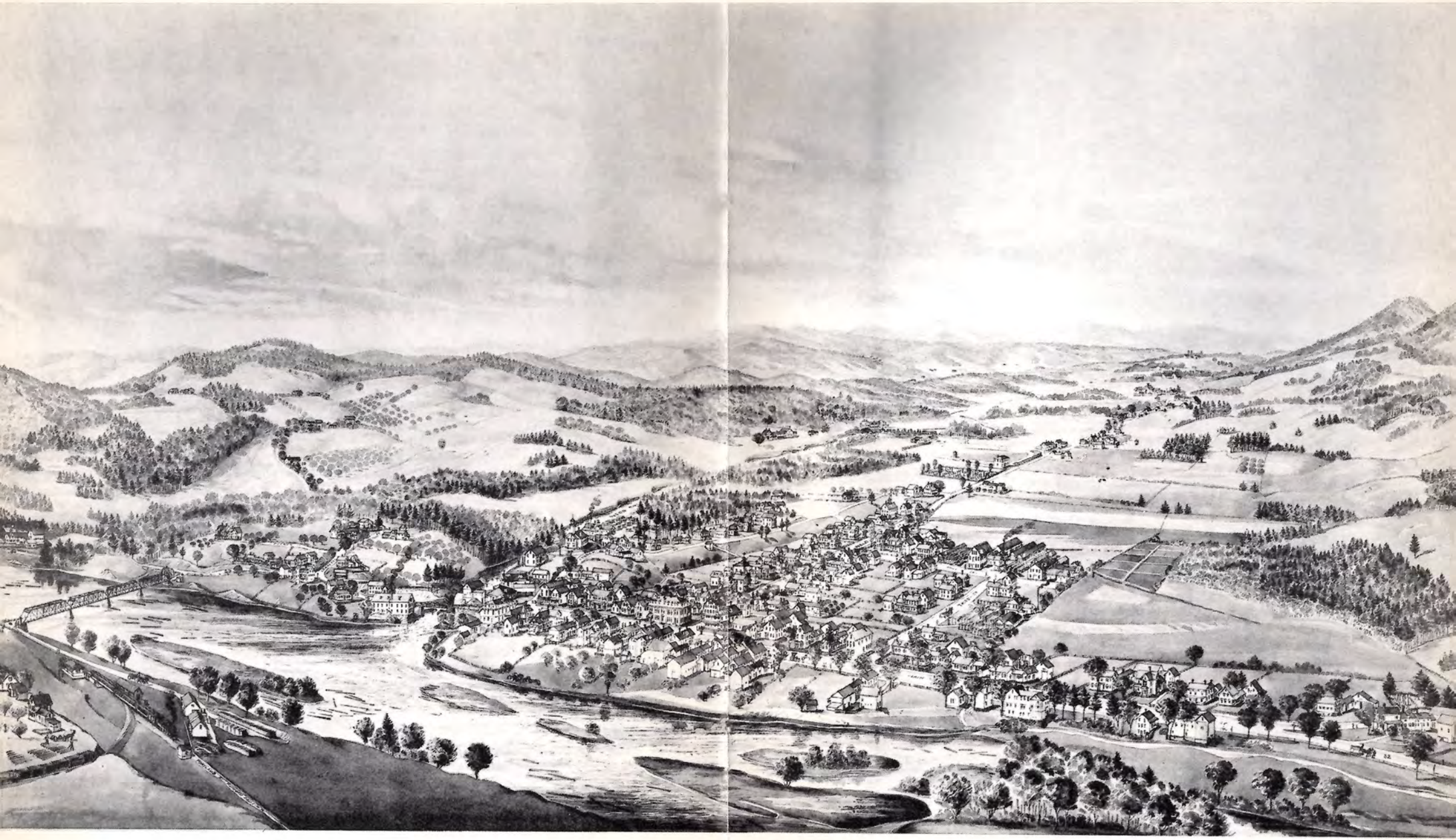
General Henry Farwell was the first of many Dixfield lawyers -- he was also the first lawyer who was admitted to the Oxford County Bar -- in 1807.

For a brief period, townsmen had a local newsheet. It was printed by The Canton Telephone which made this announcement in a June 1883 edition:

"We have received THE DIXFIELD STAR, Volume I, Number I, a six column folio, subscription to be one dollar per annum, T.H. Thornton, Editor. First issue to be printed 12 June 1883."

There was a last minute change of title, and THE DIXFIELD CITIZEN was published on the announced date.

Several of these first editions have been preserved. Unfortunately, no one saved all the issues -- and so we have no clear idea of the life span of THE DIXFIELD CITIZEN. A copy of an 1888 edition gives E.E. Carver as the editor. Mr. Carver was also the editor of The Canton Telephone -- and when that paper folded in 1893 went to Rumford and began The Rumford Falls Times.



DIXFIELD,

MAINE.

·1896·

Courtesy of Ludden Library

The blacksmith shop of Eli and J.P. Edmunds, now the Social Building on lower Main street. Owen Harding added a piece on front, and Klaus Brackett installed double doors later. Courtesy of Elaine Mitchell

William H. Mitchell came here as early as 1825 from North Yarmouth. In 1834, he bought a lot of land on Main Street from Silas Barnard and erected a one and a half story house (The Charles Towle house, now Floyd Macomber) and a blacksmith shop. He was first in partnership here with Amos Gardner, and later alone. The smithy was on the same site now occupied by the Chapel, beside the Social Building.

Abijah Douglas had a saw mill at the foot of Severy Hill before his death in 1838. He had moved to Dixfield in 1820 and bought a farm of Mr. Goodall "which he paid for in keeping sheep."

TROUBLE IN PARADISE!

An article inserted in the 1940 Town Report is recopied here. No author's name appears.

"The first Town Meeting was in 1804 when five selectmen were elected. The Town voted to pay the following rates for a day's labor:
Labor -- 10 hrs. at $1.00 per day.
Oxen -- 10 hrs. at 67¢ per day.
Cost of plow -- 10 hrs. at 25¢ per day.

Joseph Wheeler was elected the first Tax Collector. (He was one of the pioneers of the Village about 1803, living in a log cabin on the river bank about where Third Street exits on to Main Street now.) There was some difficulty in collecting the 1805 taxes, as the Bondsmen of Joseph Wheeler

were called on to sign a note for the uncollected balance -- and it was voted to ask for bids for collecting the taxes in 1806. Daniel Torrey was paid three mills for the privilege of collecting.

The next few years was spent in building roads. There were 25 separate roads built and accepted.

Up to the end of the decade the town seems to have worked with unanimity in all affairs -- but then dissension arose and so many bitter feelings aroused that the town became divided, and harmonious working for its people ceased.

There were several causes for this sentiment!

One of the most important of these was that Colonel Holman, the wealthiest of all the original proprietors, had planned a town bearing his name -- and while he never held office; he, from the outside, justly and honestly controlled the town.

The center of the town's activities was to be The Common -- and to insure this he gave a plot of land for the church and school house, and ground for a Common.

It was by trickery that the name of the town was changed from Holmantown to Dixfield -- by Dr. Dix, an associate of the Colonel's.

Another factor was the phenomonal rise of Amos Trask from the rank of laborer to that of leader in town affairs -- gaining in wealth so fast that he was able to buy all of Dr. Dix's holdings in 1812. These included the saw and grist mills and practically all the land where the Village now stands, for $3900.

Petitions were made for the construction of a bridge across Webb's River. Even before the petition was acted upon, the inhabitants of the lower end of the town petitioned to be joined to Canton. The petition was repealed.

Then a committee was appointed by the town to confer with the Court "to oppose the building of the bridge at this time -- and forever if possible." The decision was against the town, and it was immediately voted to make a physical division of the town.

The separation as agreed upon was to follow Range Five as far as the Valley and then the line was to run straight to the Carthage line.

A petition was made by the citizens west of this line to join the town of Mexico -- but for some unknown reason Mexico refused to accept the arrangement.

From this time on, incidents kept occurring which created differences between the eastern and western sections of the town that lasted for many years.

THE FIRST TAVERNS

Colonel Samuel Morrill opened the first tavern in town in 1827.

In 1875 this tavern was swept away by fire, and the Colonel was still listed as the proprietor. An old picture shows this building located on Main Street, about where the old McIntire building later stood.

In 1876, the new Morrill House was occupied by Mary Kimball on lower Main Street, the only house between the present homes of Rand Stowell and Kenneth Frost. It had been built that year. It is doubtful if it continued much beyond that date.

Who frequented this tavern remains a mystery! No doubt trips to mill with grist or lumber occasioned a visit before turning homeward.

From ledgers of that period, we find that rum retailed at 34¢ a quart, gin at 39¢ -- a significant amount when the hourly wage was 12½¢ for a man working on the town roads. In view of the fact that by the 1850's there were several taverns in the Village, one must conclude that they were patronized and profitable.

Parks house and the Morrill house - on Main street - burned some time about 1875. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne.*

ANNIVERSARY BALL.

A Ball will be given at the Inn of COL. SAMUEL MORRILL, in Dixfield Village, on Wednesday, the eighth of January, A. D. 1840, at one o'clock P. M., in commemoration of the Victory at New Orleans.

Please attend with your Lady.

ISAAC N. STANLEY,
ISAAC PARK,
CYPRUS EUSTACE,
HUMPHREY M. EATON,
ISAAC RANDALL,
} MANAGERS.

Invitation to a Ball at Morrill's Inn, January 8, 1840.

Marble Hotel
Dixfield National House
mid 1800's
Courtesy of Robert Grose

1857. 1857.

DEDICATION BALL

AT THE

NATIONAL HOUSE HALL, DIXFIELD

JULY 3, 1857.

Sir.=Your company, with Ladies, is respectfully solicited.

MANAGERS.

W. Scott Chase, Dixfield,	Oliver Newman, Carthage	Adna F. Denison, Norway,
Henry O. Stanley, "	John B. Staples, "	J. Q. Adams, Bryt's Pond,
Dwinal Brackett, "	Roscoe G. Ellis, Canton,	George Cummings, Paris,
Stephen E. Griffeth, "	Granville Child, "	C. H. Farnum, Rumford,
Victor Abbot, "	J. Ward Howe, "	H. D. Marble, Wilton,
Wm. W. Mitchell, "	D. Everett Hall Peru,	A. G. Newman, Weld,
Geo. M. Park, "	W. G. Doyen, Liv. Falls,	M. A. Taylor, Byron,
J. Orlando Austin, "	John Meguire, Winthrop,	Frank Davis, Farmington
	C. A. Allen, Buckfield,	

Floor Managers.

Nathaniel Mayberry, Alvin Godwin, Sam'l White, Benj. W. Stockwell

MUSIC.

ALLEN & HARLOW'S COTILLON BAND.

TICKETS $2,50.

First Supper at 10 o'clock,--Second Supper at 2 o'clock.

DANCING COMMENCES AT 6 O'CLOCK.

Journal Fast Job Press. Lewiston.

These liquors would have had to come across the hills from ships on the Kennebec River. Prior to good roads and wagons, these freighting trips were mostly by sled in the winter season.

Persons who have kept Morrill's Tavern are: Samuel Morrill, Marrow & Kidder, John Kelsey, Benjamin Barden, Isaac N. Stanley, Stockbridge Eaton, John T. Severy, Richard Smith, Addison S. Lufkin, John Jackson, Ephriam Reynolds, Sewell Goff, John Marble, G. Dana Austin, John C. Kidder.

Captain Amos Trask, brother-in-law of Colonel Jonathon Holman, moved into the Village early and occupied the former Dix house. He used a portion of this dwelling for a public inn. Over the years it became known as The Old Yellow House and later, The National House. It stood on the same site as the present Kimball Garage.

After the death of Mr. Trask in 1831, when his only son, Peter Trask, was but eighteen years old, Philip Abbott Jr. was the licensed inn keeper.

Other proprietors have been John Goodell, John Severy, Barnard Marble, his son John Marble, E.G. Reynolds, Mr. Crafts.

Sometime after Colonel Morrill opened his tavern, The Old Yellow House became a combined inn and tavern. Several times remodeled and transformed, it was enlarged to five stories with the original Old Yellow House becoming an attached shed -- possibly in 1857, as we note a National House Dedication Ball for July of that year.

A stock company had been formed to finance the building, and the 27 "managers" were listed on the program sheet -- along with the announcements of a first supper at 10: 00 p.m., a second supper at 2: 00 a.m.; and dancing beginning at 6: 00 p.m. with music by Allen & Harlow's Cotillion Band.

It is likely that many of the guests did not arrive home by team much before time to start the morning chores!

James Johnson, who married Phebe Tucker, the step-daughter of Aaron Severy, was operating The Androscoggin House in 1871, -- in 1855, Captain John Kelsey.

This, we know from deeds, was situated on the same spot later occupied by the McIntire House -- or Dixfield House -- where there is now the McInnes Insurance Agency building.

Prior to building on the lot just mentioned, Mr. McIntire ran a "hotel-like" in the Brown house, across from the Ludden Library. In fact, the old McIntire house and another house were pushed together to make the present Brown building.

In 1872, Mr. McIntire was managing this hotel as The McIntire House-- how much earlier, we do not know. Since Maurice McIntire was born in 1857, an only son whose father was dead before 1870, this first proprietor must have been a relative.

DRIVING THE ANDROSCOGGIN

Barely enough time elapsed from the settling-in to rear barns, and sheds, and dwellings -- to clear fields, build roads, and raise fences, before logs were floating down the Androscoggin to bring in cash money!

William Barnard was driving logs on the river by 1810. He probably bought, also, from many of his neighbours who thus augmented the family income, before dumping in for the drive.

Some time later, there were so many driving on the Androscoggin that log frames were constructed on the ice and filled with rocks at designated spots. These sank to the bottom when the ice went out in spring, and became small square islands which were used to anchor ropes that could divide sections of the river into holding places for a certain lumberman while another drive was passing down river, or to chain off any spots where the logs might "jam", or be marooned out of the current.

How early these were built is uncertain -- and they would have needed to be replaced over the years -- but Guy Andrews was making these artificial islands in the middle 1900's. These may have been for his own private use, as he lumbered extensively.

A few of these "anchor-islands" can yet be seen on the river.

Two kinds of logs composed these early drives -- one was the full tree length, and the other from ten to twelve feet long.

A paint mark on the end of each piece denoted ownership, and when the river was full of logs from different drives, a sorting pen was roped off from the anchor-islands and men in bateaux stationed themselves where they could pole the logs into the proper channels -- a log round-up, as it were!

One such sorting pen was at Canton, just beyond the town line.

There were also drives down Webb's River, and they will be described in the forthcoming Dixfield History.

Billy Mann's Scottish Highlanders from Rumford in front of Fairgrounds exhibition hall, 1920. *Courtesy of Althea Fish*

George Holman and Simon Tainter at Dixfield Fairgrounds.
Courtesy of Wirt Horne

DIXFIELD'S FAIR GROUND

William Waite owned the Fair Ground and trotting park on the Weld Street Plains which he had built in 1869 and 1870.

Cyrus Dunn of Dickvale took the fence to build at $500. -- the fence to be nine feet high. He also furnished some of the lumber for the fair buildings.

Light harness races on the Fourth of July and a couple of other meetings preceded the annual Cattle Show, as it was called at that time.

The Cattle Show featured oxen and horse pulls, races, cookery, needlework; and agricultural produce and animals were brought to be judged.

The festivities ended with a grand ball.

In 1870 or '71, when Wint Andrews attended the fair, Jno. B. Staples was Marshall Of The Day.

The Exhibition Building belonging to the fair grounds was later the scene of dances and an upstairs tenement - and Ralph Griffin and

Paul Marble operated a garage in the building before it was dismantled in the 1940's.

The Judges Stand was one of the last buildings standing. During World War II, many residents will recall long hours of plane-watching vigils from this hut.

Fairgrounds *Courtesy of Althea Fish*

RENT A HORSE!

So many pictures of early gigs and sulkies appear that one tends to forget that very few people owned pleasure carriages, as such, before the advent of automobiles.

Not only was there the expense of a carriage and sleigh if one kept a "driving horse" - the horse itself required extra feed the year round.

Usually families went riding in their farm wagons -- the transformation to freight cart was a simple matter of removing wagon seats.

As a general rule, only the wealthier citizens -- or those who did not farm, but instead practiced some profession, were carriage owners.

In 1911, there were 38 carriages and 11 automobiles taxed in the entire town. Wagons were considered not to be a luxury, and so were tax-free. Sleighs must have been considered in this category, as we find no tax on sleighs.

No mention of livery stables is made in the censuses from 1850 to 1880, and information of any earlier would be most welcome.

An 1883 news item tells us that The National House Livery Stable has purchased a "dog cart" which is quite a novelty to this section of the country. And the newspaper for 19 October 1888 says that Mr. McIntire is doing a good business in his livery stable.

Apparently the rental stables flourished from the late 1880's until the roads in winter became passable enough so that motorists stopped storing their cars for the winter months.

As automobiles became more commonplace, the livery stable horses worked little during the summer, and were turned out to pasture above the plains.

When frosts came, the pasture gates were opened and the troop of horses would step briskly along Weld Street, in single file, on the way back to the stables. So familiar was this trip that an old mare led them, unattended, -- and the people watching them hurry home would say, "Old Bess and her friends are anxious to get back to work!"

Probably the largest livery stable in town was the one adjacent to the National House, and later operated as a separate establishment. This building went from Main Street to behind the present Towle store, and the area in the back was all open, but for a small barber shop.

Many horses and rigs were for rent in this stable -- and many the young couples whose romance was furthered in one of the outfits hired here.

There was also a lively business, once the trains came in, in squiring the traveling salesmen to those communities unreached by rail.

An 1893 news item says, "70 transients were accomodated at The National House last week. The regular commercial men make it a point to fetch up here."

Around 1910, Edward Hazen Virgin, Thalia Brown's father, ran this stable. He would take some of these commercial travelers around the country on trips and would be gone sometimes for several days.

Back of the McInnis Insurance building was a livery operated by The McIntire House. Harold Paine used the building in after years for an automobile repair shop. Will Frost operated it in 1913. The building had, in the beginning, been the old Town Hall moved down from the Common.

Zenas Taylor drove a stage to meet the trains, and had horses for hire. His stable was on Main Street about where the drug store now sits.

Jess Smith, who married the widow of Wallace Kidder, owned a livery just across the bridge. He moved to Newmarket, N.H.

Frank Brown, the grandfather of Mary Frances Bartlett, moved down from Carthage and took over the livery formerly belonging to the old McIntire Hotel, in 1893. A Dixfield Citizen news item of that year relates, "Frank Gilcrease has gone out of the mail carrying business and is at work for Cox & Keen. Frank Brown carries the mail."

Mr. Brown made regular trips to the Dixfield railroad station in Peru, bringing both mail and passengers.

Both Frank Brown and Zenas Taylor operated out of the livery stable that went with the National House before they moved across the street.

AND THEN THERE WAS LIGHT!

Dixfield had the first electric lights in this area, back in the late 1880's! How many houses were served, we have not yet discovered, but we know that in the early 1900's the electricity went on at dark and out at eleven o'clock.

The first incandescent light bulbs were invented by Thomas Edison in 1879, and so our lights must have been arc lights.

These arc lights had a frequency of 25 cycles -- not enough power to run motors -- nor could the electricity in those early days be sent for long distances.

The Rumford Falls Light & Power Company which was begun in 1893-4 had arc lights for the first several years "which could barely be sent across town"; and Mr. Philip Thomas, former manager of the Rumford power plant, says that each dwelling had one outlet (not, strictly speaking, an outlet as we know it today -- but rather one bulb) -- and this was probably true of the Dixfield company.

Wint Andrews tells us that Albion Marsh put in the electric lights in the late 1880's. We find Albion Marsh owning the grist mill after it was built in 1879, for fourteen years, until he sold in 1893.

While he was owner, several different men operated the grist mill portion -- including the Stanley brothers, J. Holland, and Putnam; but Marsh held control of the electric light company which was based in the cellar of the grist mill.

In the Rumford Falls Times for 23 February 1893, we read: "Philip

OLD TOOTHPICK MILL -- Electric power dynamo near water, run by water power showing street lights it supplied. Note lower dam and water tower.

Andrews has charge of running the electric lights. He takes possession of the grist mill next week."

The news sheet of 1893 also says that the Village is lighted by electric lights - streets, stores, and a good many residences.

There was a drouth that summer, and from the Times edition of August, we read, "The town is still without electric lights because of low water."; and "Electric lights for one night only." is an item in the next week's issue.

Cora Corrow's mother was the daughter of Philip Andrews -- she remembered the electric power plant in the basement of the grist mill and of having to make out the electric bills when she was a girl and "not being very good at it."

Older residents used, also, to call the old toothpick mill at the mouth of Webb's River "The Power Plant."

This was because a dynamo was placed in that mill which had a capacity of 360 incandescent lights that not only lighted the mill, but provided street lights for the bridge and highway in front of the mill. It was powered by water.

How brightly lit the mill must have been!

In The Dixfield Citizen for 22 July 1886, we read that "Dixfield has some street lights for dark nights!"

The electric lights furnished by power from the old grist mill were not very satisfactory. Every thunder storm led the lightning in through the wires. In Dr. Sturtevant's house alone, lightning came in three times in one storm, and a neighbour told of seeing the doctor run outside with a knife to cut the wires, during a shower.

The grist mill burned on 15 February 1913. For a time after that there was no electricity, then what is now the Stowell MacGregor Company furnished the power from their dynamo until the Rumford Falls Light Company took over.

MILLING AROUND

Clustered closely around the mouth of Webb's River have been a remarkable number of mills. So much enterprise was shown here that had there been water power sufficient to run the mills during drought, Dixfield would, without doubt, today be a large manufacturing city.

To list them all with the dates and owners is not easy, as they rose, phoenix-like, in the same spot -- and often changed hands.

They are listed by locations -- and each location covers very little ground.

Old Forster toothpick mill, bridge across Webb River, Lamont Willoughby long lumber saw mill, Church on the Hill, (barely visible above) William Putnam sash and blind mill, grist mill. Two bridges and dams showing. *Courtesy of Ed Willoughby*

DIXFIELD SIDE WEBB'S RIVER - BETWEEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND MAIN STREET

GRIST MILL Built by Dr. Dix in 1803-4. Amos Trask ran it from that date, bought it in 1814, and then run by Sam Park until 1824 when Peter Trask took over the operation. Charles L. Eustis bought from Trask in 1840. Then, in 1854 sold to Hosea Austin and his brother-in-law, Stockbridge Eaton, in 1856 - Austin, entire; Freeman Griffeth 1858.

This mill was under the same roof as the next.

SAW MILL Built by Dr. Dix, owned and operated by Amos Trask both before and after he bought in 1814, then, perhaps, by Isaac Stanley until Peter Trask - who sold in 1840 to Charles L. Eustis. In 1853 bought by Freeman Griffeth and Joseph Forster; in 1856 by Hosea Austin -- Then Austin with his son-in-law, Lamont Willoughby, Willoughby alone, then Thayer.

In 1879, a fire destroyed this and other near by buildings; as in 1880 taxes are remitted on the grist mill owned by Stanley and Fields, and on the saw mill owned by Chase and Austin, "and all the district burnt last fall". Soon after this date, the second saw mill, a separate building, was erected.

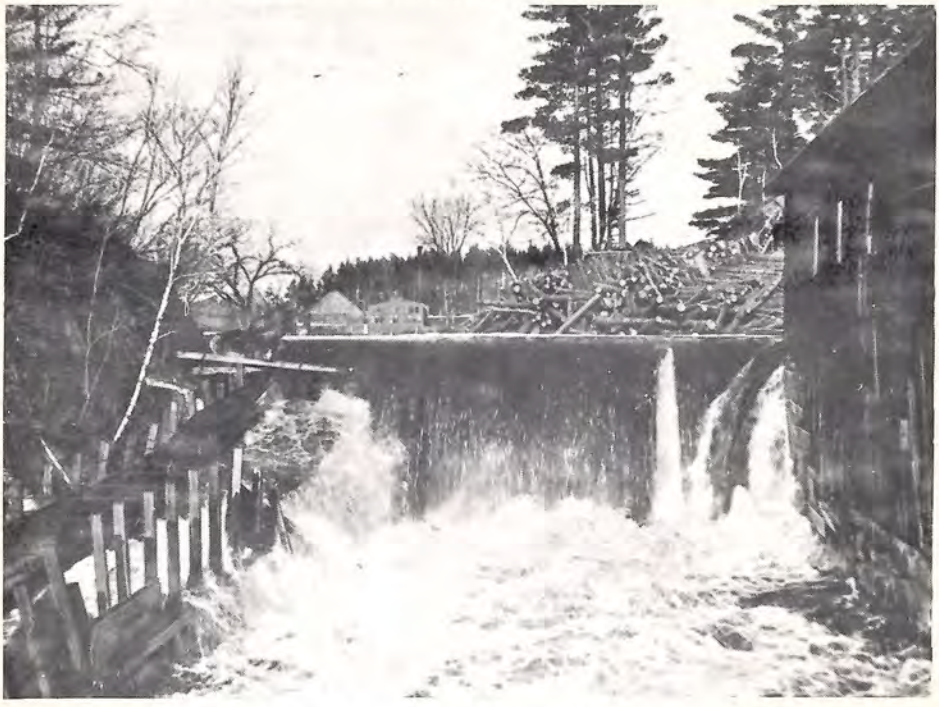
BARK MILL So old that it was not in use when the law suit over water rights was held in 1865. Situated close to the old grist mill, it must have supplied the tanneries.

FULLING MILL This stood south of the old grist mill in 1840. Burned 1887. The first owner was Joseph Horsley who came from Livermore. He was the first to go into the dying and fulling of cloth. Part of this building was occupied as a dwelling. There were several owners: Joseph Yetton, Freeman Griffeth and Hosea Austin, the Stanleys, John Marrow, John Harris.

A FULLERY scours, cleanses and thickens the cloth -- the cloth is thickened by moistening, heating, and pressing.

DRY HOUSE Connected to the second grist mill by a covered walk way, the dug out road went under the walkway. Mr. Hines made rakes in a portion of this dry house at one time. It was probably a place where grain was kept dry -- it was sometimes called "the Boarding House", for some unknown reason. It was an old, old, building in 1900 - with an upstairs loft, and no inner partitions of any kind.

CLOVER MILL, CIDER MILL, THRESHING MILL This mill occupied the site back of the oldest grist mill. It was bought by Austin and Griffeth from Charles Lyman Eustis in 1853. A ledger kept by Wallace Eustis shows him to be owner of the mill from October 1864 to 1866, when no further accounts of clover are noted. A hardware and grocery store was a part of this mill during those years, carding was done there in 1866 -- and for months, some dressing of cloth.



Upper dam, Webb's River mouth. Willoughby long log saw mill foreground, clothespin mills background. Courtesy of Wirt Horne

The clover mill sold clover and oat seed, "tailings", and "dust", to the amount of $200 in 1866. Charles Bisbee ran this mill in 1846.

The mill must have burned after 1867 as we find that in 1870 it was rebuilt by P.J. Whitman, the son-in-law of Charles Lyman. This second mill burned before 1880.

AMERICAN RAKE COMPANY Built on the site of the former clover mill. Large quantities of hay rakes were made in this mill which burned before 1880.

WILLIAM F. PUTNAM HOUSE FINISHINGS AND LUMBER MILL was built on the same site as the American Rake Company in 1880. In 1901, his son, William E. Putnam bought the business. The Putnams made everything from carriages to coffins, and handsome dining room sets, etc. "Bucky" Dunham was the last one to work in this shop -- or near the last -- Wirt Horne had a pair of skiis and a row boat bought from him.

BRAID MILL In 1921, Joseph P. Allen & John S. Harlow built on this same site. This was the only mill of its kind in the state where elastic braid and webbing, rick rack, etc., were made -- such things being braided and woven of rubber. This business continued only about four years. Later it was fitted with toothpick machines and owned by John S. Harlow and leased to the Berst-Forster Toothpick Company who ran some machines there in addition to their main mill. (All buildings in this locale were razed to make room for the Braid Mill in 1921.)

SECOND GRIST MILL Built in 1879 for Henry O. Stanley who sold it that year to Albion Marsh, who owned it for the next 17 years. Several different men operated it for Marsh. From 1886 to after 1905, it went by the name of C.P. Howe Grist & Wool Carding Mill. In 1893, Philip Andrews began operation of the grist and wool carding and electric lights sections. Tom Tucker made hay rakes in the basement until 1895. The electricity dynamo was also in the basement.

There was a store upstairs in this building, reached by steps outside.

In 1886, a CARDING MILL was put into a part of this mill. It was taken out and moved to Phillips in 1908.

In 1913, the building burned. The grist business had become so small that it was never rebuilt.

HAY SCALES These stood further east, just across from Morrill's Tavern, near the Counting House. Weighed here were all the loads taken to and from the nearest depots at Lewiston, etc., to ascertain the amount to be charged for freightage.

COUNTING HOUSES These were sales rooms and offices for all the factory people. The first, built in November 1828, was close to the road on the easterly end of the woolen mill.

Between these buildings was a large plank flooring under which flumes and penstocks conducted water to the wheels that ran the machinery.

Later on, a larger counting house was placed on the spot where the grist mill extension was later erected. These counting houses were used to make the grist mill extension.

POTASH MILL Built by Dr. Joseph K. White who died in 1821. Later owned by Joseph Yetton, then Charles Lyman Eustis. Not running in 1865, but the building still standing above the saw mill. Reached by the saw mill road; but ashes used in it were hauled to the top of the hill where the Hirst house was, measured in tubs holding one bushel each, and carried on an elevated walk to the roof of the building and emptied into it through a scuttle in the roof.

To make the potash, water was drained through these ashes -- the liquid was gathered and boiled down to the desired thickness, and then used in soap-making, gunpowder, glass, etc.

Isaac N. Stanley had another potash on the Enos Dillingham lot -- old letters tell of it burning on a Sabbath, but no year is given. This Dillingham lot at that time was between the Dr. Elsemore house and the Dixfield Beauty Salon, on Main Street.

AREA FROM MC INNES INSURANCE BUILDING TO WEBB'S RIVER, ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER SIDE

Site 1

(1) Morrill Tavern farm stand- Morrill BLACKSMITH AND AXE SHOP was burned long before 1850.

(2) AMES HARNESS SHOP was also gone before 1850.

(3) Freeman Griffeth Harness shop converted from Dr. Tingley house on a portion of Morrill stand. He was harness maker for the village.

(4) STEAM MILL built by Stephen Griffeth on site of Morrill Tavern barn. Later used as a SALT BOX MANUFACTURE by Ephriam Marsh and Ireland, then by Gammon as a RAKE MANUFACTURE.

(5) Cyrus Newton BLACKSMITH SHOP, built by Stephen Griffeth and first operated by him.

(6) HOTEL JOHNSON on a part of the Morrill stand.

(7) MC INTIRE HOTEL or Dixfield House, Odd Fellows' Block. (Androscoggin Hotel, earliest.)

(8) Amos W. Griffeth made carriages somewhere on this site - he moved to Augusta, December 1860.

Site 2 (Closer to Webb's River)

(1) CLAPBOARD AND SHINGLE MILL

Silas Barnard as early as 1810 put up the building that sawed the first clapboard ever sawed in Dixfield. He hired John G. and Albert A. Barnard to build it. This building was burned, and rebuilt in 1827 by James Mason Williams. Burned, and rebuilt in 1834 :

(2) Completely refinished by a Mr. Raines of Lewiston or Auburn, a cabinet maker, who did not stay long.

(3) CARPENTER SHOP operated by Cyprus Eustis -- and by several others for different woodworking businesses.

(4) WOOLEN MILL Dr. Small of Mexico and John G. Barnard began the

woolen mill operation with water power from the middle dam. Was selling cloth in 1828.
(5) About 1841, Charles Lyman Eustis bought and later nearly doubled the size of the building, and installed the woolen machinery. This building burned in the spring of 1868.

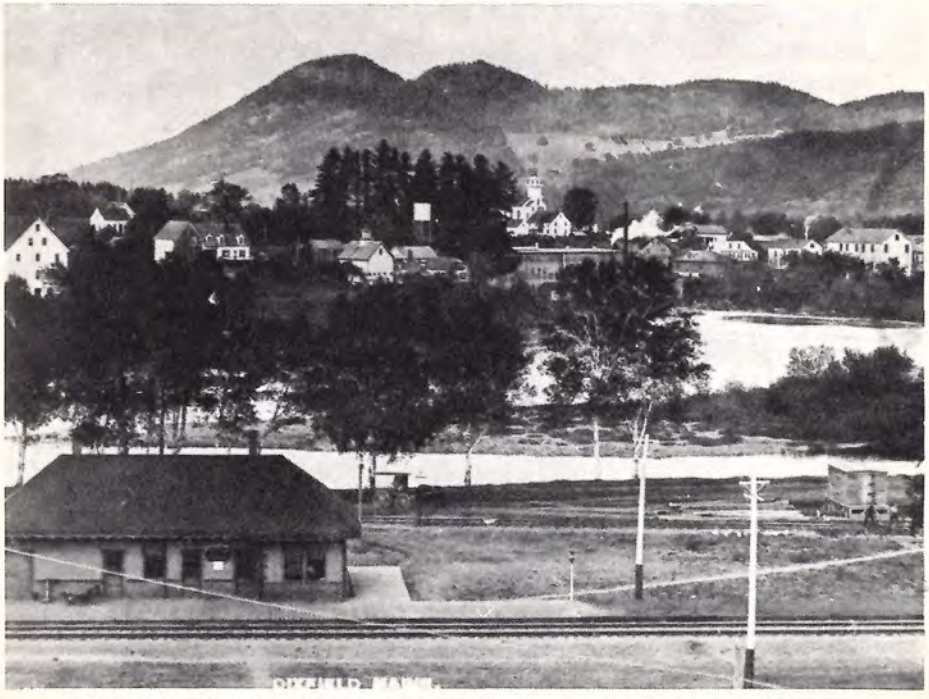
" NEW MILLS "

The "New" mills were a mile upriver from the grist mill complex, when traveled by road. They were located near the Thad White bridge. The dam built to supply power for these mills was built around 1826, and was out long before 1888 -- as we know from old letters. This dam was probably on the same site as the later dam there.

Henry White built a saw mill on the south side of the river that was sawing boards in 1826. After his death in 1836, the mill was run by Thomas Jefferson White - the father of Thad, Jeff, and Henry - and one of these sons may have run it after.

Silas Barnard, after his shingle mill burned on lower Main Street, moved to this location and rebuilt. He was erecting booms and slips by March 1827.

Adam Knight of Peru brought in an old saw mill and put it up on the other side of the river. He did not run it at all.



Dixfield, showing water tower. Station on Peru side of river in foregound. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Humphrey Eaton, and the brothers James Lyman and John Eustis put in a clapboard and shingle mill and ran it for a number of years. Their brand, stamped on their shingles, etc., was E., E., & E. John Griffeth owned this mill, or another, here.

The BRICK YARDS stood close to these mills. The yards were putting out bricks in 1827 - and probably earlier. Old store ledgers of this period make us certain that crockery was produced, as well as bricks. Silas Leonard is often named as one of the earliest mill men -- and since we have not yet found another place for him, it is possible he operated the brick yard.

Leonard Brackett was the owner of these brick kilns in 1870. After this Arch Coburn later ran a saw mill on this spot, then Charles Towle and Llewelyn Fairbanks were partners in the saw mill. Today this is the site of Dixfield's newest park.

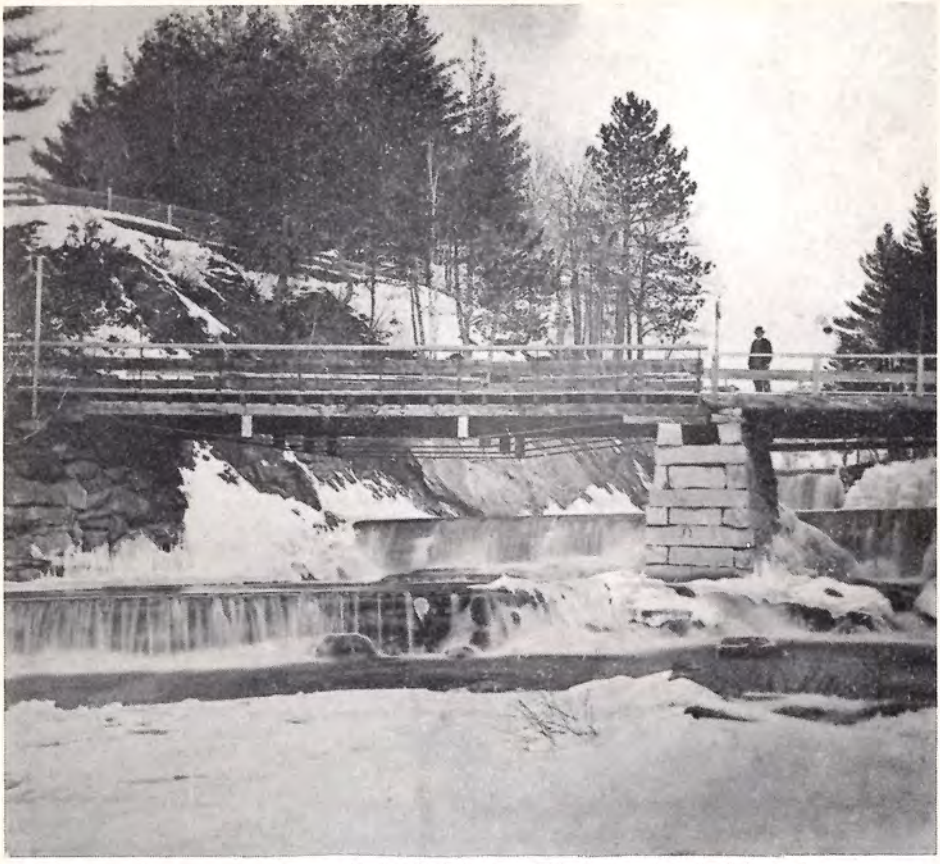
Behind the former Ann and Augusta Eustis home, between Dr. Elsemore's and the Beauty Salon, Enos Dillingham and Alexis Burnham made pitchfork handles, and did cabinet work.

Burnham came from Westbrook in 1837, and after partnership with Dillingham, made coffins in a shop he built across the road from Mrs. Marion Tribou on lower Weld. It is possible that his sons and those of Colonel Morrill became the Burnham & Morrill Company of Portland which built the factory on Third Street about 1888 and packed corn produced from 200 - 300 acres, annually -- much of this land being owned by the company.

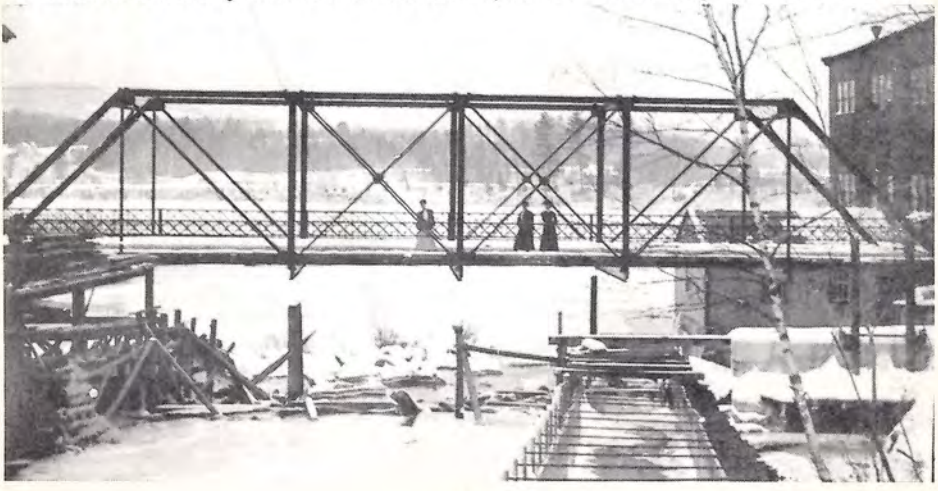
George Marsh made the first cans for this factory in one of the old Fair Grounds buildings. He had many patents for improving the manufacture of these cans, and sold these plans to other companies.

This corn factory and the spool and toothpick mills which operated from the late 1880's will be described in the next book -- as will the cheese factories and other industries begun on new sites after the 1870's.

"Meeting House Hill". At foot of hill the "Boarding House"; next Freeman Griffeths. Last house, a Mr. Winter lived in at the time of the Civil War. Barely visible in the distance are houses on Mexico side of Webb's River -- upper Leavitt street. Courtesy of Wirt Horne



Two early spans across Webb's River. The wooden bridge that preceded the first iron bridge, and the second span of iron. The three dams are clearly visible in the first photo. Courtesy of Wirt Horne



Harlow Block on Main Street built in 1878 by Elbridge Harlow. Music hall on third floor, bricks made at Brackett's brick yard. John Harlow has had the top and ell removed from the National House. The livery stable behind it is operating as a separate establishment, and the National House is now known as the lone Harlow building. Dr. G.G. Defoe started his practice here in 1921, and it has housed the library, a barber and dentist shop, an antique shop. Zenas Taylor is driving the car. *Courtesy of Lucien Eustis*

Another view of Harlow Block on lower Weld. Abel Holt barber shop on east end. Band stand behind the National House has had roof added. Tourists not known. *Courtesy of Walter Kidder*

DIXFIELD'S FIRST VILLAGE

THE COMMON

Here at Dixfield Center, or Dixfield Common, was the beginning of our town. Here was the first mill and post office, the first school and cemetery -- the first settlement of houses in the township!

Here was laid out by the Proprietors the first Common of the town -- a four acre plot reserved for military training, parade grounds, town hall, church, etc.

It was here that the first child in the town was born--Jonathon, son of Peter Holman, in 1797. And it was on the Common that the first permanent settlements were made.

In 1792, 15 men came over the hills from Livermore to what is now the Center to clear land.

A large log cabin was built on the so-called Colonel Holman place for meetings and lodging. Among this group were Col. Holman and three of his sons -- Peter, Soloman, and Ebenezer Waters Holman, Asa Waters -- a brother-in-law, Moody Seyery -- a cousin by marriage, Andrew Elliott, Asa and Joshua Goodall.

1795 is the date given as the first settlement in Dixfield, but family history has Peter and Ebenezer Holman settled at the Center in 1792, with the next permanent settlers arriving in 1795. All historians agree that they were the first permanent settlers. Their brother, Solomon, exchanged his rights with another brother, Jonathon Jr.

Peter and Ebenezer built identical two story frame houses about 40 feet by 45 feet. Peter's, at the Center, still stands. Ebenezer's house was located about a mile toward the Village on the site now owned by Robert Bearisto. The original house was burned by fire in 1935.

Captain Jonathon Jr. built a brick house about a mile east of the Common. It had 11 fire places and walls 12 inches thick. Before 1900, a lightning fire destroyed this home, but the walls and chimneys were so well built that they remained standing for years.

Verdell Holman, father of Lyman, was born in this house as was Charles Towle, father of John.

The Peter Holman frame house was built in 1804. The large room on the second floor was used as a hall for public meetings and recreation. It also served as a store and post office after the Manderville Holman store burned in October 1888.

For a while, four families lived in this new dwelling -- Peter, Ebenezer, Jonathon Jr., and Moody Severy, who had married a cousin of Col. Jonathon's.

The frame house that Ebenezer built after Peter's was completed was erected about 1807, making it among one of the first framed houses in the settlement. The Colonel made many trips from Sutton, on horseback, to assist his sons in the construction of their homes.

For many years the Common was the center of activities in Holmantown.

Here the annual Town Meetings were held for almost one hundred years, if not longer -- until 1828 in the first brick school and at the Peter Holman house, then in the second brick school from that time until the first town hall was built in 1860. Dr. Sturtevant, who came to town in 1885, describes the March trip to the Annual Meeting by sleigh and snow shoes, several years after. (The first Meeting held at the Tuscan Opera House for which a date can be found was in 1916).

Aaron Park was, perhaps, the earliest merchant in town. Records refer to Jonathon Holman's second saw mill in 1840, and to the Dry House of John J. Holman in 1878. John J. Holman also had a general store before 1860.

One of these early stores was on the same side of the road, and near the Peter Holman house. Close by was the town pound, mentioned in 1807, and Peter Holman was the Pound Keeper until 1817.

The second store, which held the post office, was located on a site next to the Town Hall. Manderville Holman owned it in 1888 when it was destroyed by fire, and Mr. and Mrs. Will Holman -- the grandparents of Althea Fish -- operated it. After the fire, Mr. Will became the first Rural Mail Carrier in town, and continued for 42 years. The year after he started in 1892, the route was extended to Weld and he changed horses in the Village at noon to complete his route.

The militia training grounds was on the common by the Town Hall. In the earliest years of the settlement all the militia drills, etc., for the entire town were held here. After the Village and Science Hill became populous enough, the Center alternated every third year with these villages -- but these musters, the biggest social event of that day, undoubtedly resulted in the Center's second name -- "The Common".

There must, also, have been an inn for travelers since all traffic in and out of town went by this route. Perhaps the Peter Holman house served this purpose. Certainly after the 1888 fire, the Center store was conducted in this house. Older residents recalled buying molasses and rum by the keg at this location.

The first grist mill, powered by oxen, was near the Common. Other mills were soon established on Newton Brook.

The first scythe and axe factory was on Newton Brook beyond the present town dump. It was owned by Samuel Parks -- whose wife, Polly, was a niece of Col. Holman; and his son, Samuel Jr. -- whose wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of Col. Holman's brother, Daniel.

The first brick yard was probably on the Towle Brook, near the Richard Towle door yard. It was here that the bricks were burned for the Capt. Jonathon Holman home, for the school house; and for the Cedar Valley Farm, recently destroyed by fire, on Paradise Hill.

There were three water powers on Newton Brook. One was near the present town dump, another was a quarter of a mile upstream near Westover's Camp Grounds, and the third about two miles upstream near Tainter's Corner.

George Weld was operating the saw mill on Newton Brook near the town dump in 1865. Following him, Lincoln and Fred Weld, his sons, ran the mill until 1893 when it was sold to Alexander Holman. Ellery Porter was the last one to run it.

When George Weld bought this mill there was an up and down saw in it, powered by a water wheel.

Since in the years 1845 to 1848 (The only years for some period in the Maine Directories when such items are listed) there were four grist mills in town, there likely was a grist mill here.

The established pattern of installation for early mills was an up and down saw mill in combination with a grist mill for grinding grain, plus a set of stones for bolting meal.

Lt. Caleb Park was probably the first owner -- he was dead by 1812. How long it remained in Caleb's family is not known, but either here or on one of the other Newton Brook mill sites Moses Park -- who seems to have come to town about 1814 -- ran one of the early mills.

Vestiges of the mill pond can still be seen in front of the house owned for a long period by the Weld family.

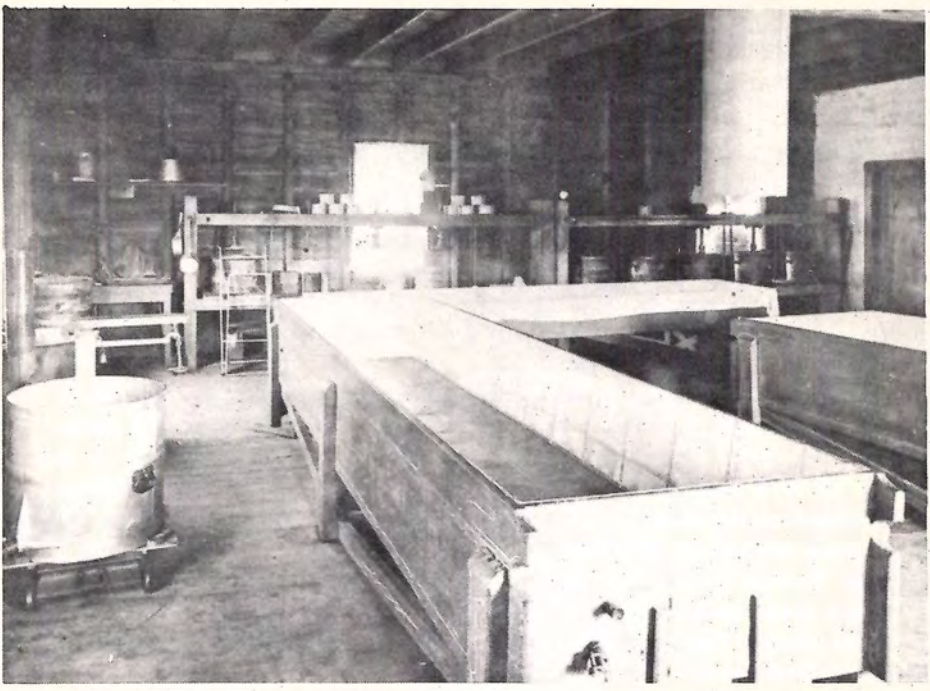
Near Tainter's Corner, Abraham Tainter owned and ran a saw mill that was later operated by the Durrell brothers -- and then by Charles Durrell alone. The Durrells commenced in the late 1800's, but we do not have earlier dates.

Before the railroad was closer than the distance to the Kennebec River, ox carts from as far away as Colebrook, N.H. came through the Center and continued on their way to the ships. Local ox carts often joined these "trains" -- and the trip from the Center required three days each way.

During the Civil War many horses were raised here for the U.S. Cavalry.

Predominately, however, this has been a farming section with milk, apples, maple syrup, hops, and grains for the chief products.

Dixfield Center Cheese Factory, incorporated 11 February 1874 by Nathan Carver, Wm. W. White, John Holman and 28 others. Built near the Marigold Cabins. *Courtesy of Lelia Holman Walton*



Inside the Cheese Factory. *Courtesy of Althea Fish*

Taken from Abbott Hill on the rise going towards Canton - shows the cheese house beside the chapel. The row of houses going parallel to the church has to be Hall Hill road.

Courtesy of Wirt Horne

In 1874, The Dixfield Center Cheese Factory, across the road from the Marigold Cabins, was incorporated with 31 shareholders who were farmers of the community, and run by D.F. Newton, Cheese Maker.

Where once the Common was the hub of all town activities, lined with beautiful homes; it is today but a side road off Route 2.

DIXFIELD'S LOST VILLAGE

The first name for this area is lost in the sands of time. Within a few years, however, it began to be called HILL OF SCIENCE or SCIENCE HILL for the many people of mechanical ability who lived there.

Prior to 1800, Bartholomew Hutchinson came in March from Paris hauling his goods on a hand sled. He was soon followed by Solomon Leland, Henry King, William Eddy, Isaac Parks, and Holmes Thomas.

Settling a few years later on "Smith Avenue" were the Smith brothers, Samuel and Simon, and Holbrook Blake- whose wife was a Smith.

At the junction of the road that leads to Hiscock Hill -- known as Bowley Corner -- Isaac Parks built a large two story building used for a residence and Wayside Inn. This had a commodious hall used for public meetings and early dances, and was a regular stopping place for travelers on the way to Hallowell.

Once in three years, alternating with the Village and the Center, the annual MAY TRAINING was held on the large level field near this hotel.

Also at Bowley Corner was a school house, store, the hotel, a blacksmith shop, and a nearby saw mill.

Elisha Parks, who also made furniture here, made axes and was a temper expert. He was later hired by other concerns to temper axes -- and the name PARKS on an axe was enough to warrant a sale.

The Hutchinsons made kitchen chairs.

Nathaniel Thomas, grandson of Holmes, was a noted mechanic. He made clothespins, and later turned bedsteads, salt boxes, and butter tubs. He set out the largest orchard in the vicinity -- and invented a machine that would pare and slice an apple at one stroke and deposit the peeling in one place, the cores in another, and the slices in a tub. This machine completely revolutionized the dressing of apples.

Early teachers were Augusta Leland, John Storer, and Sherburn Bean.

Many men of note have gone out from this district: John Severy was a hotel operator in another section of the state, Henry Haines, the first man to bring the mail into Dixfield, resided here. Dr. Blake, of Wilton and Farmington, had an office here whence he rode out in his gig to visit patients.

Albert Hutchinson who was a prosperous merchant at Livermore Falls; and B.F. Thomas a merchant at East Dixfield, were born here.

Also natives were Rev. Llewelyn Raymond, pastor of a large church in New York, and Rev. Herman A. Childs of Rangeley and Montpelier, Vt.

Ministers of note who were reared in this village were Will Carver, Ernest Holman, and Will Blanchard.

Teachers who received an enviable reputation, after leaving Science Hill childhood, were Earl Childs and Carl Holman.

Once a thriving and unique section of our town, Science Hill by 1924 had only two houses left and was nearly deserted.

Today the road leading to it from East Dixfield is impassable by car beyond the first hill.

Taken before 1888, Will S. Holman at Riley, Me. with his horse Maggie. Mr. Holman had the Post Office and General Store at Dixfield Center, and was Grand Union Tea Co. agent for Dixfield, Canton, Riley, and Jay. in addition to his duties at the Center. Courtesy of Althea Fish

HISTORICAL NOTES OF

EAST DIXFIELD

(Dixfield Section)

The village of East Dixfield is divided into nearly equal portions between Wilton in Franklin County and Dixfield in Oxford County, the town and county lines running the length of the village on the westerly side of the main street. On the lower end it cuts through the house built by Albion Hall and now owned by John Rollins. The Seven-Mile Brook runs through the village on the Dixfield side affording, in the early days, very good water power.

About 1805 Job Hathaway came from Wilton and built the first framed house in the village. With him was his brother-in-law, David Clark. This house will be remembered as being owned for many years by Ella White, then Stuart Souther, and when it burnt on December 12, 1970 was owned by Cecil Hutchinson. This property was then purchased and cleaned up by the United Baptist Church who use the site for parking purposes.

Not long after Job Hathaway built his house Joshua Dunn built the house where Claude Harvell now lives.

Steel bridge originally across Webb's River. Foreground: white house now the George Hiscock property, originally one of the first mills in town owned by Job Hathaway. The house and barns behind are now owned by Ella White, and was the Job Hathaway place in the early 1800's.
Courtesy of Marjorie Hall Bryant

David Clark and Job Hathaway built the first sawmill on the Seven-Mile stream. Some years later Albert Randall built the first grist mill. In 1836 Nathan Fuller, who had some knowledge of the tanning business, sold his place at North Jay, came to East Dixfield and built a tannery at the upper end of the village. There he farmed and tanned hides into leather the rest of his active life. The tannery burned in 1869. Jedidiah Adams, known as Dyer Adams, built a small mill near his home, also at the upper end of the village, for getting out clover seed and did a thriving business for many years. After his death this mill came into the hands of Thomas Stone and William Butterfield and was used for a job shop. The first apple barrels made at East Dixfield were made at this shop, which developed into quite an industry and was continued for many years by different parties. The last ones were Almon and Orie Coolidge who converted to boxes to meet the popular demand. They ceased operations around 1933. Anson Hall, assisited by Nathaniel Thomas, built a mill at the lower end of the village which was run by Thomas for many years. He made salt boxes, butter tubs and many other useful articles. This was not run by water power.

The Wilton Record of May 13, 1882 printed the following:
"The water power at East Dlxfield is used by H.S. Walker, T.B. Stone, and Mr. Randall. H.S. Walker has a saw for long lumber and does something with that but his work is mostly cutting birch into strips, which he sends to Livermore, and to another factory, to be turned into hay-knife handles, buttonhook handles, small hammer handles, drop-knobs, of which he now has an order for 1,000 of one kind and 800,000 of a size smaller. He uses about 800 cords of birch and pays to the farmers and his workmen quite a bunch of money in the course of the year. Thomas B. Stone has a factory at which he manufactures 1500 cheese boxes for the Jay, Livermore, Dixfield Center and Dixfield Village factories. They use poplar and spruce and it takes about 15 cords. He also does job work. Mr. Randall has a grist mill and a single machine."

Another of the early settlers was Melvin Leach, a cabinet maker and justice of the peace, who built a two story building and used part of it for a shop. This building with the Hildreth store, Charles Whittemore residence and the Sampson residence burned the same night in what was called the great fire of East Dixfield. This took place about 11 P.M. on March 25, 1910. Mr. Leach later moved to Jay where he continued his business and served as town treasurer for many years.

The farm at the lower end of the village which was owned by Verner Coolidge at the time of his death in March 1965, and now owned by James MacDonald, was in the early days the William Morse farm. His son, Russell, was an inventor and dealer in patent rights. After their house burned Albert Randall bought this property and built the house that is there today. Mr. Randall raised a large family, was a charter member of Mystic Valley Grange, and its treasurer until his death.

About 1860 W.H. Winslow, a native of Dixfield, who had been running a hotel in Massachusetts returned to East Dixfield and built the fine

Butterfield's store (East Dixfield side of the road).
Courtesy of Marjorie Hall Bryant

store known in later years as Butterfield's store. Here he traded for thirty years and served as postmaster from October 12, 1863 to October 22, 1883. This store became known all over the country while owned by Edith and Clara Butterfield who ran a general store and a wholesale remnant business for many years.

The postoffice was established on April 25, 1829 on the Dixfield side of the village and the first postmaster was Elisha Clark. It moved across the line to the Wilton side for a little over a year in 1888-1889, then back on the Dixfield side until October of 1914 when it moved to its present location on the Wilton side.

The first schoolhouse was built about 1830 on the opposite side of the road from where the present one stands. This served the district until 1860 when a new one was built across the road putting it also across the line into Wilton. This was known as District 15, administered by the town of Wilton with Dixfield paying their proportionate share of the expense. This accomodated 50 pupils. This schoolhouse was sold in 1914 to George Noyes, who moved it down beside the Grange Hall and remodeled it into a dwelling, and the present schoolhouse was built. I think it should be noted that Mrs. Nellie Gordon taught the primary grades in this school for 21½ years, starting in January 1920. This school was closed in 1963 and since that time the children have been bussed to their respective town schools.

The first church in the village was built around 1835 by the Free Meeting House Society on upper Main Street on the Wilton side of the

road and was used by several denominations. This church, remembered as the Universalist Church, was torn down in 1946 as it had not been used for many years. On Sept. 29, 1864 sixteen citizens organized the East Dixfield Free Baptist Society and in 1868 they built the church near the center of the village which is still occupied by the United Baptists. L.W. Raymond was one of the foremost movers in organizing and building the church, one of the first two deacons, and in 1904 became its pastor. Rev. Roger Ela was installed pastor at the time of organization. Some of the men who have gone into the ministry from this church are Llewellyn Raymond, Will Carver, Fred Carver, Weston Holman, Manderville Holman, Ernest Holman, Herman Childs, Will Blanchard and Lewis Brown. There have been others in more recent years. The East Dixfield Universalist Parish was organized in February 1899 by 38 local citizens at the Free Meeting House and they held services there for quite some time.

The following was copied from the Town Register of Canton & Dixfield, 1905: "The Severys were probably amoung the first to settle in the vicinity of East Dixfield. Warren Severy has said that his father

First church, built 1860, owned by Free Meeting House Society. Second East Dixfield school house beside it. Courtesy Marjorie Hall Bryant

Left side - Col. Wm. T. Eustis house, now Dr. Elsemore; Tuscan Opera House. Dixfield House between the two doesn't show-but had the livery stable whose sign appears across the street. Upper Weld street. Right side - Ada Hammond house - now Chester Elliott; present Benedix shop, Ada Butler store; Masonic Lodge, Grist Mill and extension where sign is nailed. Main street. Courtesy of Wirt Horne

felled the first trees that were cut on Severy Hill, within a mile and a half of East Dixfield village. Warren Severy was the last of his generation of Severys. His grandfather was a soldier in Washington's army enlisting from Sutton, Mass. Four of his sons, Asa, Aaron, Archibald, and Samuel, settled in Dixfield in 1795, and a daughter, Ruth, who came with the boys, married Henry King, from which union came the Severy Hill Kings. Lieutenant Solomon Leland settled in East Dixfield. He was several years town selectman, and was sent to Portland as a delegate to help form the Constitution for a new State in 1810."

One of the earliest doctors was Silas Powers Bartlett who moved to East Dixfield in 1845 and took over the practice of Dr. Zenas Bartlett. His residence was directly behind the present postoffice and is now owned by Milford Smith.

James White, the father of Dr. Verdeil O. White who began practice in East Dixfield in 1892, began dealing in livestock around 1850 and became well known as a cattle dealer. For three years, he was engaged in the mercantile business in East Dixfield, after which it was carried on by a Mr. Ireland. He owned the William Gould place on the Wilton side of the village.

The building which became the Grange Hall was erected in 1893 and '94 for a Cheese Factory, and continued as such for a number of years.

Today, as in earlier times, East Dixfield residents contribute in significant ways to the two towns of Dixfield and Wilton!

MEXICO SECTION

The Mexico side of Webb's River has always been closely connected with the Village. For a long period, scholars from Mexico's District # 1 attended the Village District # 1 - the Annual Reports of 1894 and 1897 show monies paid by Mexico for this purpose.

The two towns have always shared the cost of the bridges spanning the Webb's River.

For many years after Dixfield was separated from Mexico in 1803, lands in Mexico were retained under the Proprietory School & Mill funds.

In 1901, grass sold on the meadow in Mexico netted the town of Dixfield $ 13.00 -- and an accounting of the profits from land held in Mexico is given in previous Town Reports. There have been petitions initiated by the Across-The-Rivers' to join the town of Dixfield. One in 1918 had a warrant to that effect in the Dixfield Town Report. This petition failed of success simply because of the expense to conduct a survey to mark out new town lines.

The mills operated here were a part of the cluster around the dams on Webb's River. As with the Dixfield mills, they are described by mill sites -- which would require an archaeologist to determine every layer.

School building on Leavitt street, Mexico. The second school house in District # 1, Mexico. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Atlas of Oxford County -- 1880

ANDROSCOGGIN SIDE, ACROSS WEBB'S RIVER BRIDGE

Site 1

(1) Hosea Austin and Stockbridge Eaton built a tannery here about 1847. Austin later owned it all.

(2) Pill boxes made by Hosea Austin, then he sold to W.F. French.

(3) Converted to toothpick factory in 1874, burned in 1904, rebuilt 1904. (From old pictures we know that three buildings have been on this spot.)

(4) Machinery taken out and sent to Oakland. Lumber of buildings used August 1920 to build Albert Trask house and Vivian Horne stable, Leavitt Street.

Site 2

Eli Edmunds home -- later John Holland, now being demolished. Mrs. Philbrick ran the "Holland House" as a tourist home for a few years, but due to the location did not succeed in this enterprise, and so she converted it to tenements by raising the roof.

Site 3

(1) "Old" tannery built by Nathaniel Graves who came from Vermont in 1821 and brought with him the first cook stove that came to Dixfield -- and the only one, for many years! He built the tannery that year and later sold it to Bartlett Richardson. It was fitted over for several families after the following had operated the tanning works: B.L. Marble, John Holland, Isaiah Clark.

(2) Here, or very close, Hosea Austin built the Ferry House.

Forster Mill, Mexico side. Across the bridge, the second grist mill and Putnam's House Furnishing Mill, with the roof of the saw mill showing. The "Dugway", the road always taken with teams to avoid the steep climb up Church Hill, went under the elevated walk of the grist mill and hugged the steep bank beside the church.

Courtesy of Alberta Hunt

Last iron bridge to span the outlet of Webb's River, being replaced by the present concrete bridge. Lower and middle dam can be seen, as can the water tower for the Forster Mill. Power plant in fore-ground. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

ACROSS THE BRIDGE, NORTH SIDE

DRY HOUSE this building had "bars" on which cloth was stretched to dry, or for some other reason. In front of these bars, planks were laid down -- and on these the village boys of yesteryear used to play Tag, Sheep and Wolf, and other games.
LIVERY STABLE Jesse Smith had a livery where Charles Newton later had a BLACKSMITH SHOP.
The WATER TOWER for the Freeman (Forster) Toothpick Mill stood here.
Carl Merrill owned a FILLING STATION where now is the store owned by Norman Des Roches.
John Griffeth lived just across the road from Eli Edmunds and built carriages before 1850 that "were painted with posies all over the back, and had seen good service for 30 to 40 years" -- (in 1888).
W.S. Chase had a CARRIAGE SHOP around the 1870's in this location.
All these businesses are on the lots now owned by Normie's Store and Art & Eddie's Filling Station.

The road to Leavitt Street used to go all the way to Highland Terrace, emerging near the present Leo Maillet home.

Another road roughly paralleled Webb's and junctioned with the

Back Kingdom road which led across the Thad White bridge, past York Hill and Poplar Hill, as shown on the 1880 map.

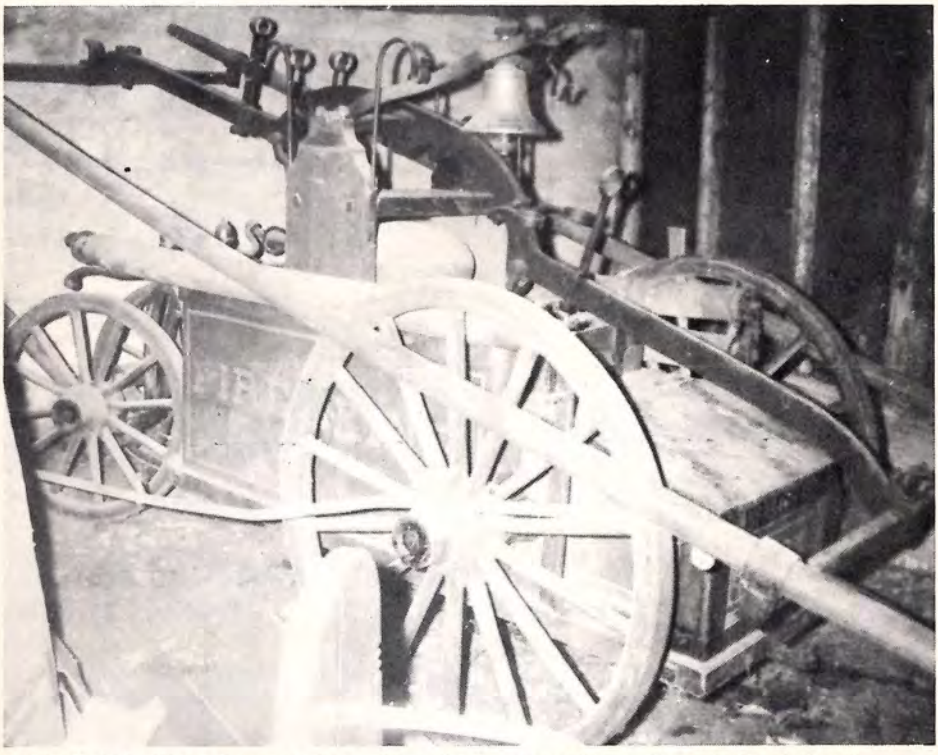
The road to Swift River along the Androscoggin was built in 1798 when both towns were Holmantown.

For our large History we will include the area from the present Burke place on the Rumford road to the Dixfield line, as this is the area that residents in 1919 petitioned to have changed to Dixfield.

That book will cover all the early settlers in this region -- many of whom spent their working lives in, and are buried in, Dixfield.

We mention in this volume only one or two families that have figured prominently in the early years of our town.

Peter Trask, son of Amos, (who ran the old grist mill from 1824 to 1840) built the house on Leavitt Street recently owned by a great grandson, Stanton Horne, about 1820. His personal daily account book from the years 1824 to 1856 gives us a history of those years that would otherwise be lost.



Dixfield's first fire engine, bought by popular subscription about 1893. The name of the engine was "Fire King" -- and this is the name kept by the volunteer company. The handles on the side were worked by the firemen to obtain a pressure of 60-90 pounds, and the only recourse to water was the cisterns or Webb's River.

Courtesy of Walter Kidder

He had, undoubtedly, the first Nursery in these parts -- in 1827, he sold over 200 apple trees to Villagers.

By 1856, he was employing a number of Village ladies in picking hops "which he dried for four days in his hop house".

For a brief period he had charge of the Pound, and in 1836 was charging 25¢ for each cow impounded.

He must have owned one of the few ox carts in the area as all the Dixfield business men rent his cart and oxen for trips (mainly to Augusta) and local "halling". This cart sees daily use and there must be fifty different men who hire it at 25¢ for two days (oxen extra!) until the very first time a wagon is mentioned in October 1827. Even then, he hires out his cart for another several years oftener than the "waggon". He rents his "slay" regularly too -- and riding horses, as perhaps his father had done before him. If so, this is the town's first livery stable.

About a mile beyond Trask's, on Leavitt Street, the Eustis boys grew up and added much to Dixfield's prosperity. Their father, Deacon Joseph, settled here in 1803, up above the farm later owned by Benjamin Leavitt -- and part of the same farm. Deacon Joseph's brother, Thomas, worked on the Dix house and grist mill in 1803. Charles Lyman who owned nearly all of Dixfield village at one time, gave his name to the town of Eustis when he and a Clark built a saw and grist mill there in 1823. Lyman was the son of Deacon Joseph.

John Chamberlain Eustis, a brother to Deacon Joseph, and his sister Elizabeth -- we know from two old letters -- rode from her home in Rutland, Mass., into Dixfield in the first carriage that ever came into this part of the country. The letters give no date, but from the Eustis Genealogy we learn that John Chamberlain deserted from the War of 1812 and fled to Canada where he raised a family; then returned 30 years later to Rutland when his mother died, at which time he and his sister came to Dixfield. This should make the date around 1842.

Probably the first school in District # 1, as this school area in Mexico was named, was an old red school that stood where the Ferry House was later built. It had been converted to a two family dwelling prior to 1850. Dr. Joseph Small, a cordwainer at the time, and a Huntress family lived there.

The next school building in District # 1, Mexico side, was about a mile from the Village on the Trask road. Known also as the Howard District, there were times when the school was closed and the pupils attended the Village school.

Marshall White, whose father and brothers lived near the bridge from Coburn Avenue to Back Kingdom road, owned what was known as the Morrill Farm. This farm was for many years the summer home of Gen. Charles Wilson, born Mexico Corner, 29 Oct. 1848. He studied law in the office of Isaac Randall of Dixfield, and died at the age of 93 in his home in Providence, R.I. The place became known as Gregory Inn when in the mid 1930's a Sweeney family operated it as a tourist home.

Leavitt Street, showing the home of Peter Trask on left, with the Oscar Trask barn beyond. Near right, Clarence Childs home built about 1914 with Oscar Trask house in background. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

The Dr. Pease and Dr. Defoe house on Main Street. The Chester Elliott home next door. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Two 1820 houses. The Barnard house on lower Weld Street--now occupied by John Tribou, whose family has always owned it. The Peter Trask home on Leavitt Street, until this year always owned by a member of the Trask family. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Weld Street 1877. The house with the open porch is the former Linwood Witham house. Picture taken before Mill Street was built.
Courtesy of Wirt Horne

Once the Androscoggin Hotel, then the McIntire House, this is now a tenement on Main Street. *Courtesy of Wirt Horne*

Taken about 1850, this shows the rear of the woolen mill on upper Main Street. Across the bridge is Hosea Austin's tannery, with the Eli Edmunds house, later the Holland house recently razed. The drying racks for the woolen mill show on the bank above the tannery.

Courtesy of Wirt Horne

The Dug Way Road and the clothespin mills in background. Showing a corner of the Braid Mill and the upper dam which was dynamited out during the 1936 flood.

Courtesy of Wirt Horne

The celebration of the Bicentennial planned for July, which includes this publication, many other activities, and a parade, takes place just 116 years after the first Dixfield parade of which we have knowledge.

Jefferson Davis spoke here during the Douglas-Lincoln presidential campaign in August 1860. He came by train to the end of the line at Bryant's Pond and was met there by Mr. Griffeth who brought him on to Dixfield. A big Rally was planned in the Village in celebration of Mr. Davis' visit. It was held at the back of the Bolster house on lower Weld -- now the home of Mrs. Marion Tribou. The side hill up to High Street served as a natural amphitheater.

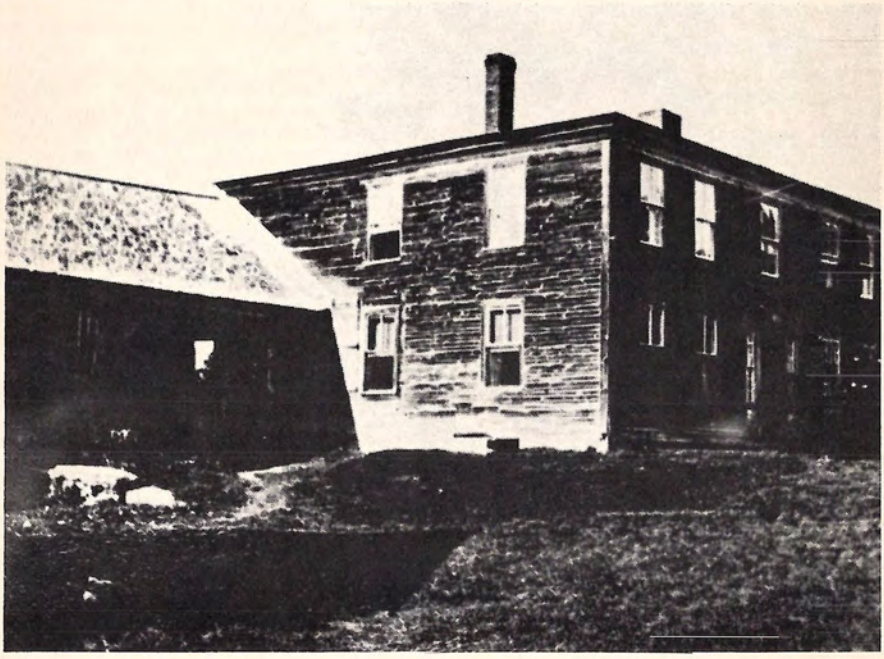
During this political campaign almost every person on Severy Hill was for Lincoln, and they resolved to make a demonstration on this occasion. Every soul on Severy Hill pooled efforts and two huge cars were constructed near the Aaron Severy place. Each had a capacity of 30 to 40 passengers. They mustered all the oxen to be had - about 20 pair - and on the morning of the Rally people gathered from miles around to get a free ride to Dixfield Village. Up over Science Hill, by Dixfield Center, and down the western incline they went to the River road. Here they shackled the two cars together and made the oxen into one long team. The cars and oxen, and even the ox yokes, were decorated. Then with floating streamers and flags flying, they rolled into the Village where they were greeted with cheers and applause. Long after, it was called the most imposing pageant ever to traverse the roads of Dixfield.

May our celebration be as successful !

National House, with the old Thomas Cox store--later the post office-- directly across the main street. Band stand at rear. Early 1900's.
Courtesy of John Tribou

INDEX

Foreword 5
Purchase, Boundaries, Incorporation 7
1800 Census 10
1810 Census 11
Settlement 12
First Road 15
First Quarry 16
Ferries 17
Schools 23
Churches 34
Outside Connections 37
Webb's River Crossing 40
Androscoggin Bridges 43
A "Set" Of Firsts 47
Trouble In Paradise 48
The First Taverns 50
Log Drives 55
Fair Grounds 56
Livery Stables 57
Electric Lights 59
Mills 60
Dixfield Center 69
Science Hill 73
East Dixfield 75
Mexico Side Of Webb's River 80
First Celebration 90



Ebenezer Holman house, where Robert Bearisto now lives. Original house destroyed by fire in 1935. Courtesy of Barbara Kendall

Dixfield Citizen.

VOL. VI. NO. 34. PUBLISHED AT CANTON, MAINE. THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 1892. RUMFORD FALLS PUBLISHING CO. $1.00 PER YEAR

RUMFORD FALLS.

A temporary bridge has been built across the Middle Level Canal near the penstocks of the power mill and was opened to travel Saturday night.

The penstock for the Sulphite Fiber Co. was covered last week, and is being put in place.

Contractor Smith has completed his contract with the Power Co. on the Middle Level Canal.

Contractor Megan has given up his contract with the railroad, to move 12000 yds. of earth back of the paper mill and the job has been relet to McGregor Bros.

The Turner house is for sale, owing to the health of Mrs. Turner. Purchasers should address A. E. Morrison, real estate agent, for the particulars.

John Badger is to open a tobacco and tea store on the corner of Congress and Bridge St.

Two of the largest derricks ever raised in Maine, have recently been put up on the bridge abutments to the Hartford St. bridge to the Middle Level Canal, by Everson & Liddle.

One of the bodies of the Flemming Bros., who were drowned in the recent flood by going over the upper Falls, has been found. Mr. James McGregor, while returning to his work on Friday was about to get out of his boat near the abutment of the Androscoggin river bridge, when he noticed something floating near shore and on pulling it up he found it to be one of the bodies. The coroner was immediately notified and as an inquest was not necessary the body was given in charge of undertaker Richards.

Supt. Decker tells us he expects to let water into the water pipes Thursday, Dec. 22d.

The Chemical Association are all ready for power having completed their plant. They have put in the largest dynamo ever built by the Thompson & Houston Co. Their water wheel is of the most improved pattern, and they expect the water in the Middle Level Canal about Jan. 1st.

Brick is being laid for the Paper Co's. office on Lowell St.

J. M. Johnson has opened a billiard and pool room in Shaw's block on Exchange St.

The Power Co. have moved their office from Congress St. to Shaw's block on Exchange St. The office vacated by their engineering department is to be occupied by Dr. F. H. Houghton, and the room Mr. Pettengill occupied, Mr. Morrison retains for his insurance and real estate office.

Fred Kessler formerly of Biddeford, Me., is to open a first class dry and fancy goods store as soon as he can get a store. Mr. Kessler has had many years experience in the dry goods business.

A. F. Conant of Bethel, Me., recently sold his lot here on Canal St. through the real estate agency of A. E. Morrison, to A. H. Oldham, for $600, being $100 more than he paid in June. Mr. Morrison also sold a lot on Congress St. for $700 for Bath parties, being $300 more than was paid for the lot last March.

Bryant & Lander the enterprising hardware dealers are to put a set of hay scales in front of their lot on Congress St.

Albert Thomas, of the Andover House, Andover, while driving into the village last Saturday near the saw mill tipped over, threw his wife and another lady into the canal, but no damage was done.

The property owners in the business section of the town are to be congratulated on having a fire protection. The Power Co. have leased 12 hydrants from the Light & Water Co. without any expense to the property holders and an ample number of them have been put in for this year's protection. A fire department is being organized with James McKeenan chief engineer. The company has also built a building on Canal St. for a hose house and now the citizens will be asked to hire 500 feet or more of hose to use in connection with the Paper Co's. in case of a fire in which all interested should respond to the call. The hose Company is to be a volunteer Company.

H. H. Oldham is to build a two story blacksmith and carriage shop on Canal St.

Mittens at 20cts. at Israelson & Marx's.

The lumber for the false bridge, on which to build the iron bridge across the Androscoggin river, has arrived and will be put up at once. The bridge crew are here and the iron is being hauled to the site.

Harry Jordan formerly of the Elm House Mechanic Falls, is to be landlord Whittier's clerk, at Hotel Rumford.

C. S. Maxwell of the firm of McKinnie, Maxwell & Co., is very sick at West Peru.

Charles Price has severed his connection with Everson & Liddle and Harry Shiffin takes his place as time-keeper and book keeper.

John Russell is putting in the foundation to Fred Walker's building on the next lot to the post-office.

S. H. Rogers and son are putting in the foundation for Prosper Gilbert of Westbrook, on Canal street, for a three story frame building which is to be built at once.

John Cummings, the veteran livery stable keeper at So. Paris and Norway, visited the "Falls" last Wednesday.

The Rumford Falls Publishing Co. has put out a large new sign on the front of their office on Congress St.

Ladies' Rubbers at 25 cts. at Israelson & Marx's.

Lumbermen should supply themselves when going into the woods with a liberal amount of Brown's Instant Relief.

CANTON.

Below zero.

More snow wanted.

Big trades in crockery at Holt's.

A good word for Christmas shopping.

Those Nice Dolls about half price at F. & S.

A busy season with all our dealers in Christmas novelties.

Christmas candy 8 cts. lb. at Holt's.

Miss Addie Gammon is learning typesetting at the TELEPHONE office.

Autograph Albums down to 10cts at F. & S.

Mr. S. D. Packard has been in town, visiting his father, Alpheus Packard.

Holt has a 10 ct. counter this year.

The Poland Paper Co., Mechanic Falls, is to add a new twenty five horse-power motor.

Children's Books, down they go to 3cts at F. & S.

Rev. W. H. Clark of Mechanic Falls exchanged pulpits last Sunday with Rev. J. C. Andrews.

Half ton of candy for 8 cts. lb. at Holt's.

The Baptist Ladies' Circle will meet with Mrs. E. B. Hayford, Thursday afternoon, Dec. 29th.

Real China Moustache Cups and Saucers marked down to 10cts at F. & S.

Quite a delegation of Canton people attended the Nordica concert at Lewiston last Thursday evening.

Geo. B. Staples has purchased of B. A. Swasey, his meadow lot near the village and the barn on Livermore street.

Be sure and hang up your stocking. You may not get a piano in it, but if you don't hang it you will most likely "put your foot in it."

Just received, a new stock of rubber goods, at Holt's.

The entertainment by the young people connected with the Universalist Sunday School will be given at G. A. R. hall on Thursday evening, Dec. 29th.

Everybody buy their Xmas presents at Holt's this year.

Mrs. Hannah Waite has been seriously ill for a few days. It is thought she has pneumonia. Dr. Lincoln of Farmington, was called to see her Monday.

Later.—Mrs. Waite died Thursday morning.

Holt takes the cake this year in Christmas crockery and glassware.

Fire caught from a brick flue in No. 3 of O. M. Richardson's greenhouses Wednesday morning, and but for timely work much damage would have followed.

Make your husband a Christmas present of one of these Nice Suits of Clothes which F. & S. are selling so low.

Dr. B. A. Swasey has purchased the Hiram Gammon farm on the West shore of Lake Anasagunticook. We understand he intends to make it a summer resort.

Everybody is surprised when they visit Holt's store.

L. W. Smith has purchased of I. B. Fuller, the old mill building on the lower dam, and is converting the upper stories into drying rooms for his tanning business.

The balance of Fuller & Staples Christmas goods marked down, some less than cost, as they never pack up or carry any over.

Christmas exercises at the Baptist church Sunday evening consist of the Christmas Carol entitled "Coronation," which includes songs by the quartette, responses by the congregation, reading and responses, recitations, etc.

The fact that Bicknell is on his third bbl. Christmas candy proves that the public appreciates the difference between a pure article and something made up to advertise at a cheap price. Others may sell what they will, Bicknell sells a pure sugar candy at 10 cts. lb.

Miss Deborah Reynolds fell on Tuesday of last week, by tripping on a rug, at her home with Thomas Reynolds'. She sustained such injuries at one hip that she lies almost helpless, although the physician is not positive there is a fracture or dislocation. Her age is about 80 years.

Fuller & Staples wish to thank their many customers for their large patronage during their immense Holiday sale, which is the largest ever known in Canton.

Rev. J. C. Andrews, of Mechanic Falls, who has supplied the pulpit of the Baptist church the past six months and ministered very acceptably to the people of Canton, is compelled to go South this winter on account of lung troubles. He will probably leave early next week and go to Southern Colorado. The church has extended a call to Mr. Andrews to become its pastor on his return next spring, which he hopes health may permit him to accept. We understand the subject of his discourse next Sunday will be "The Dying Year."

Everybody buys Voigt's Royal. Bicknell is the only legitimate agent for it in Canton and he will have something of interest to say about it before long. Prices are still going down. Royal $5.25 (In 5 bbl. lots $5) White Rose $4.75 (In 5 bbl. lots $4.50)

Rumford Falls Postoffice.

On and after Oct. 3, 1892, mails will arrive at and depart from Rumford Falls as follows:

Arrive,	10.50 A. M.	Depart,	8.50 A. M
"	5.00 P. M.	"	2.40 P. M.

Mails close at 8.35 A. M. and 2.25 P. M. Postoffice open Sundays one hour at noon and 6.00 to 7.00 P. M.

I. H. WARDWELL, P. M.

DIXFIELD.

No crossing the river at the upper ferry.

F. L. Daily of Canton Point, is at work for J. W. Howe.

Jap Decker was in town Saturday, looking for stone for the cellar to the house he intends to build next spring, on the lot lately bought by Tyler Kidder, on Lower Main St.

E. N. Carver of the Rumford Falls Publishing Co. was in town Tuesday.

Past Grand Templar, J. H. Hamilton, of Mattawamkeag, was in town Tuesday. He is to devote some time to organization work in Oxford County for the Grand Lodge of Good Templars.

The Dixfield Amateurs expects to present to the public the drama entitled The Octoroon about the first of January.

Bert Smith is slowly gaining.

A. J. Lang has a little child sick with typhoid fever.

The Minstrels had a good house and the performance was quite acceptable.

The Ladies Church Aid Society's fair was a success.

Misses Sue and Ella Bartlett are on a visit to Lewiston.

Benj. S. Doe and daughter were visiting at E. S. Harlow's last week.

H. M. Cox is at home from Portland.

Alton Newton went to Paris Saturday.

Cream Flour $5.50. Diadem $5.00, at Barrett & Smith's.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Roll of Honor week ended Dec., 16th. Charles, Leon, and Josie Luce, Sarah, Susie, and Charlie Gill, Bert and Clyde Paul, Moses Coolidge, Henry Dunham, Louise Newman, Mabel Holman, Lula Kimball, Alec Potwaine.

There will be a Christmas entertainment at the school house, in Dist. No. 4, Friday evening Dec., 23d. All are invited.

Mandeville Holmes has been holding meetings here with good success.

MEXICO.

Last week we had the full complement of runners. Business of all kinds was brisk.

Up to Thursday we had nothing of more than ordinary interest occur. Thursday afternoon the remains of John Fleming, one of the brothers drowned on the 16th of November, was found just below the new bridge. A Coroner was sent for who deemed an inquest unnecessary. Undertaker John E. Richards took charge of the remains. Albert Gower from Calais, Me., is here and will take them to Calais.

New jobs are being let, new men are coming here every day.

George Ridlon sold a lot last Tuesday to a Waterford party.

Mrs. Rose Little is now occupying her new house, the first one built on the Ridlon purchase.

Among the new comers here and hereabouts, who have their families here and who are keeping house, are Lawrence Peterson, Grant Parker, Joseph H Jerome, William Perry, Henry H. Cole, James L. Chapman, Chas O Bryant, Wieland Cobb, Henry Hasp, John Durpelle, John H. Gangloff, Henry Durpelle, Joseph Gallant, John Jepsius, Cyprian Willette, Jacques Cote, Frank McKnight, Alfred Cote, Paul Cyr, Joseph Heald, John Darrah, Henry Nelson, Alonzo Dean, Garrett Schenck, Frank Richmond, Don W. Babb, Frank F. Lagree, Mark Legere, George Menson, Andrew Casey, Samuel Easter, Wm Howland, Charles Small, S. F. Gibson, James Dowling, Jerry Brow, Hattie Dwyer, Geo. Howard, Fred Noyes, Isaac Lingley, Fred Rolfe, E. S. Skillins, and many others whose names I cannot recall.

Lewis H. Reed is hiring men to cut and haul birch to his mill in Roxbury.

Owing to the illness of Elder Carver, no service was held in the church here Sunday.

Col. W. T. Eustis and wife attended a temperance meeting at Rumford Centre, Sunday evening.

Editor Carver called on us Monday A.M.

Reuben Richmond has nearly completed the job he had to haul the lumber for six cottages Everson & Liddle have contracted to build on the "west side," 75 M long lumber, 125 M shingles, 60 M lathes, 15 M feet pine finish, and in addition thereto, the clapboards, some 10 to 15 thousand.

Geo. Ridlon has sold another lot to Charlotte Doer of So. Waterford.

Wm. M. Blanchard has sold the Haines Eastman farm to Joshua L. Weeks, and the uncle Tom Farrar farm to H. H. Cole of Paris.

W. S. Wight, a teacher of vocal music, it is expected will teach a singing school here; efforts are now being made to secure a class for a twelve nights course. Mr. Wight is a Bethel man.

BYRON.

We are having fine weather to get up our wood this month, there is some six inches of snow in the woods.

Logging is going on briskly on the Budeen stream by Messers. Mayer, Berry & Storer, on their six foot spruce.

Mr. N. C. Locke of Salem, Mass. was in town a few days to do a little deer hunting, but the crust spoiled his fun, and he started back without his venison.

Wood, the miner, is sick, and also Miss Rose Shaw. Dr. Proctor, of Weld was called to see Miss Shaw, Saturday.

The boys are going into the logging swamp to work this winter.

A.

Dr. Hale's Household Tea

Is the great blood purifier and nerve tonic. It acts upon all the secretions of the system, enabling the liver and kidneys to perform their proper functions, giving tone and strength to the nervous system, a certain cure for dyspepsia. Two months' treatment for 50c. Get a free sample at Nathan Reynolds' drug store. (1)

CANTON POINT

D. M. Foster made a business trip to Lewiston, Saturday.

Irvin Gile visited at his father's, in Fayette, Saturday and Sunday.

There will be a Christmas Tree at the hall on Saturday evening, Dec., 24. People from neighboring districts are cordially invited to join us. A social dance will follow.

Mrs. H. L. Ryder and Mrs. Elfia Ryder visited at H. G. Thayer's, at Dixfield, Friday.

Miss Lena McCollister has returned to her school at Dixfield Village.

Mrs. Mary Mayo was visiting friends at the Point last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bean of Farmington visited at Elias Johnson's, last Friday.

DIFFIDENT.

EAST SUMNER.

The friends and parishoners of Rev. S. D. Richardson are to make him a donation visit at the parsonage on Wednesday, Dec., 28th.

The two religious societies are to unite in a Christmas Festival at the Congl. Church, E. Sumner, on Monday evening, Dec., 26.

On the 13, occurs the annual roll call of the Congl. Church.

The Good Templars are giving some rare and interesting entertainments just now, as the result of a contest between the ladies and gentlemen, to ascertain which is the "best filler" for such work. At the last meeting the ladies stock took a decided boom, but some of the boys will try for supremacy at the next meeting. Jeff says "don't judge until he has a chance to render another soul stirring ballard. Five candidates were admitted at the last session.

Dr. J. B. Robinson has gone to N. Y.

Miss Abbie Barrows has gone to Mass.

Mrs. Lizzie Robinson is assisting to the duties of the Post Office.

DICKVALE.

Good slipping for Eight teaming, some have had heavy loads. Mr. Hall comes to these mills from "Old Black" with large loads drawn by oxen, that look as they did when our prosperous farmers made ox raising a specialty.

We learn that H. H. Farrar is having lumber cut with which to build a set of buildings, near his father's in the spring.

Fred Merrill arrived home from the logging woods on the Richardson lakes, on Friday.

Mrs. Oliver Tracy, after a severe illness is considered better.

Bad colds are epidemic in this community.

We received a pleasant call from our old comrade Michael Loftey, on Saturday; he found us confined to our room from a bad chill earlier in the day, and feeling rather blue. His quaint way of referring to bygone incidents of our campaigns in the old "long armed" 1st Maine Cavalry in its trials of powers with the doughty troopers of Lee, Stuart, Imboden, Hampton, Ashby, and the rest, for we fought them all, the queer antics of some men and horses in tight places, ever referred to in his inimitable droll way; dying himself, and the cross-eyed mule over a brush fire after swimming the swollen, muddy Rappahannock, the fleeing farrier when the shell struck and shivered the tree near him, running the gauntlet of a squad of rebel cavalry on the Major's gray mare, were recalled with a vividness that was better than medicine for the blues; not to mention the wonderful ox that ate hardbread and sugar and carried the boys canteens and knapsacks in payment for his rations. Mike was a patriotic, faithful soldier: long may he live to cheer and enliven despondent veterans.

Died in Peru Dec. 17th, Elias H. Lovejoy, aged 62 years and 10 months. Mr. Lovejoy was one of our most energetic and wealthy citizens; he acquired his wealth by successful farming and inheritance from his father's (the late Benjamin Lovejoy) estate. Since stock and horse raising became unprofitable, he had turned his attention to apple growing. His eight acre orchard is one of the best in full bearing in this county; he had also another of several acres, all of one variety, just coming into bearing. He cultivated these trees by raising beans among them, gathering some years large crops. His genial, pleasant face will be very much missed in this community where he was born and always lived. He was a worthy member of I. O. O. F.

H. S. M.

WEST PARIS.

Dr. E. H. Judkins L. L. B. is stopping with friends in this place for a few days. He has been in Boston for the past three months.

The chair factory closed on the 14th, and it is understood that it will not run much this winter. But it is hoped it will start up soon and do a flourishing business.

The Pioneer Mill, recently purchased by L. M. Mann, is being fitted up for clothes pins, handles, etc. Some of the machinery has arrived, but the larger part will be along this week.

A. L. Mann has taken the agency for the well known food, Oxien, and is now prepared to sell at wholesale and retail.

A.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For Sale By Nathan Reynolds. 17

Lane's Medicine Moves the Bowels Each Day In order to be healthy this is necessary. 17.

A Wonderful Carrom!

Judge Morrison, the "Pooh Bah", of Rumford Falls, so called because he embodies in himself the positions of Trial Justice, Clerk of Court and Justice of Peace, ex-officio, Associated Press Agent, Insurance Agent, Real Estate Agent, Collection Agent, Republican War Horse, Special Committee on Fire Department, Newspaper Correspondent, General Local Inspector and Supervisor, and what not, had a wonderful escape from instant death last week. While walking along the high retaining wall on Canal Street, his foot slipped on the ice, precipitating him over the wall to the ground 30 feet below. Fortunately he struck on his cheek and rebounded to his feet without a bruise.

COR.

A Splendid Offer.

Webster's Dictionary and the Lewiston Weekly Journal for one year, all for $2.50. The publishers of that favorite Maine family paper, besides enlarging it to 16 pages and printing it in new, clear type, make this offer to all new subscribers. They will send the Weekly Journal for one year and also a well bound copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, full quarto size, 1,281 pages, for $2.50. The price of the paper for one year is $2.00. The dictionary has been sold until recently for from $6 to $8. This offer is made to new subscribers only, for the purpose of introducing it to new readers. They will give a dictionary to any old subscriber who will send a name with pay for one year.

The Weekly Journal has added to its features a very attractive Illustrated Children's Page, which will make it one of the most popular papers published for children, and also a School Department which every teacher in Maine will find it advantageous to see every week. Our new Art Department enables us to illustrate matters of interest in Maine, in a manner never before attempted. A thrilling serial story and good short stories will be permanent features, while the news department will be what it always has been. Every family should first subscribe for their local paper and then for the Lewiston Journal.

Lewiston Daily Journal 8 pages, and 16 pages on Saturday, with special market reports. $6 per year, by mail, when paid strictly in advance. Saturday Journal $1.50 per year.

PUBLISHERS OF JOURNAL, Lewiston, Me.

BORN.

Canton—Dec. 19th, to the wife of Mr. W. O. Hayford, a daughter.

Peru—to the wife of E. C. Poland, a son.

MARRIED.

Bethel, Dec. 19, by Rev. J. C. Andrews, Mr. Spurgeon C. Luxton and Miss Lillian Hamlin, both of Bethel.

Dixfield Center—Dec. 18th, by M. Holman, Esq., Mr. Mason H. Turner, of Dixfield and Miss Addie Mitchell, of Jay.

Franklin Pl.—Dec. 1, by Rev. A. C. Abbott, Frank Estes, of Rumford Falls, and Miss Lizzie Jackson, of Peru.

Bryant's Pond—Dec. 7, by Rev. F. C. Rogers, Charles K. Barker, of Auburn, and Annie L. Gilbert of Bryant's Pond.

Franklin Pl.—Dec. 13, by L. C. Putnam, Esq., Mr. Dana E. Bishop and Miss Lillian A. Small, both of Peru.

DIED.

Peru—Dec. 17, Mr. Elias H. Lovejoy, aged 62 years.

Peru—Dec. 10, Jacob Bemis, aged 84 years.

Peru—Dec. 3, Demas Bishop, aged 61

Peru—Dec. 2, Edith F. Purington, aged 18 years.

Why Don't You Stop

Coughing before the entire mucous membrane lining the air passage leading to the lungs becomes inflamed, as it surely will be from such a cough neglected. There is but one remedy that gives instant relief and cures quickly. Dr. Hale's Household Cough Cure cures every kind of cough from a simple cold to incipient consumption. 25 and 50c bottles at Nathan Reynolds' drug store. (1)

West Minot.

Wish you all a Merry Xmas.

Darius Pike and L. T. Chillett had a collision of sleighs, Saturday. Mr. Pike's sleigh was totally demolished. Nobody hurt.

J. Laurin Clark and Miss Eva Barrows attended the concert at Norway, Thursday evening.

The West Minot Dramatic Club are to repeat Chessmates, Friday, Dec., 23d, at Grange Hall.

Mrs. Stephen Atwood was in town Saturday, also Frank Atwood of Rumford Falls.

Remember J. Laurin Clark is always ready to take subscriptions for this paper.

LAURIN.

Electric Bitters.

This remedy is becoming so well known and so popular as to need no special mention. All who have Electric Bitters sing the same song of praise.—A purer medicine does not exist and it is guaranteed to do all that is claimed. Electric Bitters will cure all diseases of the Liver and Kidneys, will remove Pimples, Boils, Salt Rheum, and other affections caused by impure blood.—Will drive Malaria from the system and prevent as well as cure all Malarial fevers.—For cure of Headache, Constipation and Indigestion try Electric Bitters—Entire satisfaction guaranteed, or money refunded.—Price 50 cts. and $1.00 per bottle at Nathan Reynolds' Drugstore. (5)

CONDENSED NEWS.

Wednesday, Dec. 14.

A train was ditched near Hell Station, Wyo.

A counterfeiter was arrested at Columbus, O.

A remnant of Garza's band have become bandits.

A revolutionary sentiment is said to exist in Mexico.

Two highwaymen raided the town of Gilchrist, Wyo.

Opposition to the new home rule bill is expected from Ireland.

A general strike of telegraphers is imminent on the Big Four.

There are prospects of trouble among Indians near Fort Belknap.

The Georgia Central road has filled striking telegraphers' places.

Philip D. Armour presented a public building to the city of Chicago.

It is reported that Elijah Halford will be appointed minister to Portugal.

Individual judges are to distribute the $100,000 in awards at the World's fair.

Lipman & Co., Dundee, jute merchants, have failed; liabilities, $1,250,000.

Nearly 200 indictments were filed at Guthrie, O. T., against former Kansas men.

Cashier Mead of Iron hall branch 226 is alleged to be withholding money of the order.

The express messenger who stole $100,000 was sentenced to 21½ years in prison at Davenport, Ia.

The Grand Trunk road proposes a fast ocean service to compete with the scheme of the Canadian Pacific.

The preparation of the Atlantic steamship lines to suspend immigration and maintain rates during the fair causes anxiety.

The letter of an English M. P. (urging the intervention of the government with the United States to have the duty on linens removed) has been sent to Sir Julian Pauncefote.

Thursday, Dec. 15.

Fred Hines of North Smithfield, R. I., a freight brakeman, was drowned in Branch river at Oakland.

The Massachusetts supreme court has decided that it is negligence to ride on the front platforms of electric cars.

Sir Adams George Archibald, K. C. M. G., one of the best known historians in Canada, died at Truro, N. S., aged 78.

Lionell Chandler, aged 21, of Turner, Me., broke through the ice while skating on Pleasant pond, and was drowned.

Archduke Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, has started on a journey around the world.

The Methodists of West Rutland, Vt., dedicated a new church, the dedicatory sermon being preached by Dr. Coleman of Troy.

Louis R. Cote, 19 years old, was arrested at Manchester, N. H., charged with embezzling money from his employer, a ...

John Emile Lemoinne, the well-known French statesman, is dead. He was born in London of French parents, Oct. 17, 1815.

Henry A. Kreckman of Philadelphia discovered his wife and Samuel Morris together, and made a savage attack upon Morris and fatally injured him.

The National Fire Insurance company established in 1859, one of the oldest insurance corporations in New York city, has decided to liquidate its affairs.

A jury has for the second time convicted Walter Shaw, the murderer of his mother and aunt at Houston, Tex., last March. He was sentenced to death.

Mrs. Warner Munroe, wife of a prominent citizen of Shaftsbury, Vt., was seriously and perhaps fatally injured by being run over by the cars at Bennington.

In the police court at Manchester, N. H., Lloyd T. Mead was held in $2500 for the supreme court on the charge of embezzling $2500 from the local branch of the Order of the Iron Hall.

Friday, Dec. 16.

Three persons were burned to death in a suburb of St. Paul.

The outbreak on the Mexican border is said to be quite formidable.

Nearly 4,000,000 barrels of salt were inspected in Michigan in 1892.

New Hampshire's World's fair building is practically completed.

Senator Hill is confident that Murphy will succeed Hiscock in the senate.

Sculptor Elwell is to execute a statue of General Hancock for Gettysburg.

Three men were fatally wounded in a fight in a court room at Waynesborough, Ga.

The New York Commercial company has increased its capital to $2,500,000.

Cyrus Young of Dover, N. H., was held for assault, with intent to kill, on Carrie Doty.

D. W. Reeves, as leader of Gilmore's band, was given a great welcome at Providence.

A newsboy fell beneath an electric car in Cambridge, Mass., and had one leg mangled.

Jesuitry and Masonry were assailed at the New England Christian association's convention.

Thomas E. Murphy, temperance agitator, spoke between the acts of a melodrama at New Haven.

The new directors of the Merrimac Valley street railway have reappointed N. E. Morton as superintendent.

Joseph Lagrone, a carpenter, fell from a staging at the Potomska mills, New Bedford, Mass., being probably fatally injured.

The Lawrence (Mass.) board of trade has appointed a committee to confer with the Merrimac Valley board of trade and the county commissioners on the necessity of improving the roads throughout Merrimac county.

Alphonse Cambola, an Italian, who keeps a shop in the Italian colony at Providence, and acts as a banker for his countrymen, left his store, and when he returned found it had been robbed of about $300.

OBITUARY.

United States Commissioner Hallett died at Boston, aged 73.

John Emile Lemoinne, a well-known French statesman, is dead.

United States Senator Gibson of Louisiana died at Hot Springs, Ark.

Leopold Morse, ex-member of congress and a leading merchant of Boston, died of paralysis, aged 61.

Charles Palmer died at St. Louis, aged 75. He was one of the best known musical composers in America and was musical director at the funeral of Abraham Lincoln.

Saturday, Dec 17.

The whisky trust raised prices 5 cents a gallon.

Populists in congress are alarmed at the assaults against the interstate commerce act.

A dog was carried over Niagara Falls and came out alive.

A young man was killed by his own gun at Woonsocket, R. I.

A plot to kill President Ezeta of San Salvador was frustrated.

Liquor dealers in Salem, Mass., are boycotting no-license firms.

The recall of the French ambassador to Great Britain is possible.

United States troops are close behind the raiding Mexican bandits.

Treasury officials are disturbed at the recent heavy shipments of gold.

Governor Murphy of Arizona is urging the territory's claims to statehood.

There appears to be a general demand for the restriction of immigration.

Canadian authorities are anticipating a tremendous stream of immigration.

The Illinois state Grange asks the recall of the American monetary delegates.

The postmaster of La Plume, Pa., has been arrested, charged with making false returns.

Senator Washburn is somewhat discouraged at the outlook for the anti-option bill.

The London Times blames American delegates for the failure of the monetary conference.

The case against a Fall River (Mass.) mill for alleged violation of the 58-hour law was dismissed.

A miner was blown into a hundred pieces by an explosion of dynamite near Bridgewater, N. S.

The prospects for the early building of the Black River railroad in New Hampshire are encouraging.

A scheme of the Consolidated road to lease the Connecticut river road was checkmated by the Boston and Maine.

OBITUARY.

George Turnbull, formerly a leading merchant of Boston and New York, died at Mount Airy, Pa., in his 75th year.

Sunday, Dec. 18.

A business block at Springfield, Mass., was burned; loss $30,000.

P. T. Barnum's favorite grandson will contest the showman's will.

At Taunton, Mass., while hurrying to catch a train for Boston, Orris Clarke, aged 70, was taken with hemorrhage and died in half an hour.

The body of John Fleming, who, with another man, was carried over Rumford Falls, Me., was found near one of the new bridge abutments at Livermore Falls.

The loss to the Jefferson Manufacturing company of one of its mills and a portion of another in Worcester, Mass., on Dec. 9, by fire, has been adjusted for $170,000.

The jury on the case at Newport, R. I., of Catherine Southwick against Caroline Southwick, her mother-in-law, for alienating her husband's affections, for which she placed damages at $30,000, failed to agree.

Monday, Dec. 19.

Bishop E. Murphy's blue ribbon converts at New Haven number 7000.

Albert Guertin was ordained at Nashua, N. H., as a priest of the Catholic church.

Woodchoppers quarrelled at Leyland, Conn., and one was probably fatally injured.

George Westlake of Long Island City died of joy on hearing of his insane wife's recovery.

Five members of the Fitchburg (Mass.) board of trade subscribed $25,000 for new machine works there.

John Maney, 32, of Sheffield, Mass., a brakeman, was killed at Great Barrington by the cars.

Superintendent Parker of the Pacific mills, Lawrence, Mass., denies that there is any trouble in the mills.

The schooner Payne was run down and sunk off Boone Island by the United States lighthouse tender Iris.

Robert Beatty, charged with furnishing poison with which to poison non-union men at Homestead, Pa., was held in $5000 bail.

W. H. Cole of Worcester, Mass., a brakeman on a freight train on the Fitchburg railroad, was killed near Marlboro, N. H.

John Powers, a Waterbury (Conn.) saloon keeper who left town a month ago, taking $600, has been arrested in Pittsburg.

Attorney Congan of Hartford denies having any knowledge of Mrs. Florence Sinclair of Astoria, L. I., or her uncle, John J. Cummings of Creede, Colo., by whose death she become entitled to $3,500,000.

Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Kansas is in winter's clutches.

A test of American and Russian horses is to be made in Austria.

Two men were killed and two fatally wounded in a row at Hog Run, Ky.

According to the London News the American silver dollar is in danger.

Miss Jacobs was awarded $25,000 in a breach of promise case in New York.

A Protestant church was dedicated in Madrid in spite of Catholic protests.

Walter, the 12-year-old son of C. W. Robbins, was drowned at Orange, Mass.

Joseph Boulean, a French Canadian, 18 years old, was drowned at Laconia, N. H.

The trouble on the Mexican border is said to be the work of American refugees.

Robert Bryant, aged 14, was drowned while skating on the reservoir at New Haven.

Secretary Foster anticipates no serious consequences from the drain on the gold reserve.

Editor J. G. Street of Boston was acquitted of the charge of assault with intent to kill.

Bynum's recommendations are likely to be followed by the Homestead investigating committee.

European governments will make no protest against the United States' action toward emigrants.

Canada's minister of marine denies that Canada is building war vessels in violation of treaty rights.

Daniel Liston committed suicide in the new Boston city prison by hanging himself with his suspenders.

Dr. Scott-Sanders, a London society favorite, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for forgery.

Thomas Riley was fearfully assaulted by a drunken man whom he was endeavoring to escort home at Lowell, Mass.

Gustav Pabst, son of the wealthy Chicago brewer, who married Margaret Mather, is now reconciled to his father.

The trial has begun at Northampton, Mass., of Daniel Cahill for the murder of Ann Larkin, his mother-in-law, at Hatfield.

Patrick Finnegan, a wealthy Aroostook (Me.) farmer, whose farm is partly in Maine and partly in Canada, was convicted of smuggling.

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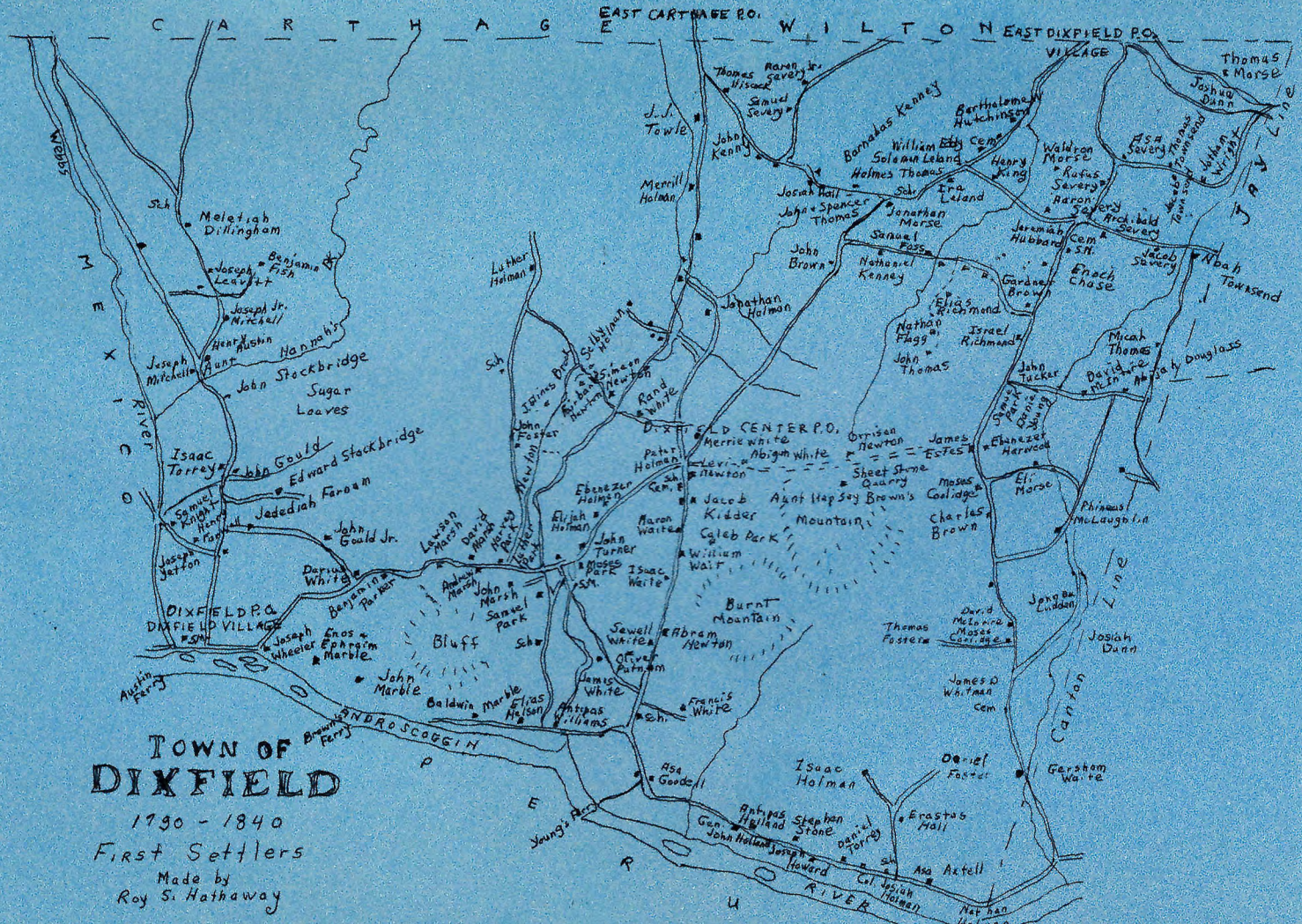

TOWN OF DIXFIELD

1790 - 1840

First Settlers

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